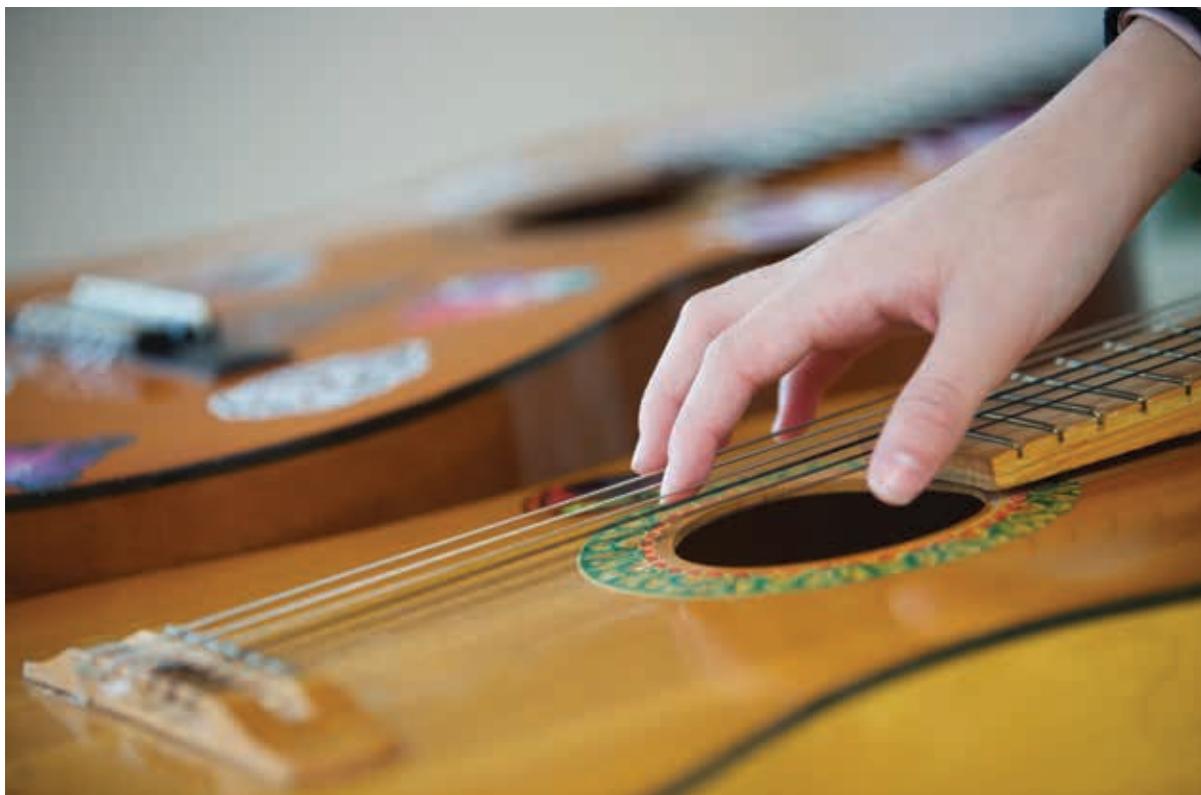


# Excellence With A Difference



*It is well known and acknowledged that during the distinguished journey of seven decades, the traditional Indian Chartered Accountant has not only shifted from backroom to boardroom but has also subsequently metamorphosed into harbinger of growth and agent of change. However, what is little known is that many of the CAs are today also basking in the glory of Excellence with a Difference, far away from their traditional domains. Yes, many of the ICAI members have carved a distinct niche for themselves in music, performing arts, sports, social service, authorship, painting, etc. However, although having broken away from their traditional accounting domain, all of them hold the CA qualification dear to their hearts and attribute their success to it in some way or the other. In this feature, we bring you the views of some of such CAs as shared with The Chartered Accountant journal. Read on...*

**CA. Vishaka Hari, Distinguished Artiste-- Harikatha**

## ‘My Training for CA Qualification Continues to Inspire & Help Me as Harikatha Artiste too’



“During my training as a Chartered Accountant I learnt a lot from my firm. The firm was almost my extended family. Happiness from work and sincerity were its hallmarks. That was the time when I got introduced to what hard work, dedication and passion truly means.

I think I have been applying the same principles in my chosen field of *harikatha* since then,” says CA. Vishaka Hari, the internationally acclaimed Harikatha exponent and carnatic vocalist. She had secured the Third Rank in the Final Chartered Accountancy examination along with an All India First in Direct Taxes.

“My accounting Gurus opened up my eyes to

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logical thinking and thinking beyond, which is what is required of me as a *Harikatha* performer. Looking into the actualities, reading in depth and comprehensive ability, I think I owe it to CA training. I was made to read the Income Tax Act as such and taught me to go deep into the words. This assumes importance for me in explaining the *Slokas* and *krithis* in *Harikatha*. This is similar to commentaries by experts, and case studies.”

“Of course after I completed my CA, I took classes for students including at the Institute, and this opened up another angle- Teaching the most complicated in the simplest way possible. I think this gave me an insight to presenting the complicated issues in an understandable manner to the students, which is what I am doing right now, albeit in a different way. I sing songs of different composers in different

languages, interpret the meaning and go beyond to look into the context and mood of the composer.

Besides my training under the legendary Padma Bhushan Lalgudi Jayaraman Sir and Sri Krishna Premi Swamigal and Sri Hariji, CA training and education might have influenced me in the way I approach my themes and present them. Though I am not clearly able to link them, one point is for sure, converting a huge CA syllabus into summary points has helped me concise Mahabaratha, Ramayana, Rudram and other life histories into a 3 hour presentation.

*Harikatha* or *Katha Keerthan* is the ancient beautiful form of art where the artiste weaves beautiful stories of value and wisdom interspersed with mellifluous songs of yesteryear great composers.

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**CA. Atul Satya Koushik: Ace Playwright, Theatre Director, Producer**

## ‘I Owe a Big Part of My Success in Commercial Theatre to My CA Education & Training’



“The profession of Chartered Accountancy is comprehensive enough to prepare you for any industry that you wish to be a part of. I always wanted to do something in the field of performing arts but at the same wanted to keep the commerce of it in mind also.

Theatre in India has never been looked as a commercially viable career option but with the education and training of Chartered Accountancy with me, I was sure to build a model where art flourishes with a sound commercial backing,” says the theatre doyen. He is known for making grand stage productions featuring famous celebrities from Bollywood, TV and theatre. He is one of the modern pioneers of commercial theatre in India.

“Be it correct accounting of costs, estimation of revenues, preparing financial models for current and prospective investors and producers or making proposals of government grants and private sponsorships, the knowledge, skill and experience gained from CA training played the most instrumental role and continues to do so,” says CA. Kaushik, still in his thirties, who has written 15 full-length plays so far including the highly acclaimed *Chakravyuh*, *Raavan Ki Ramayan*, *Draupadi*, *Kahani Teri Meri* and *Saudagar*.

“I owe a big part of whatever success I have earned in the field of theatre to the profession of Chartered Accountancy and my mother Institute,” adds CA. Kaushik, who has won a number of awards, including ‘RAI Vasundhara Ratna Award’ and ‘Times Entrepreneurship Award’.

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# Excellence With A Difference

CA. Vijay Govindarajan, New York Times Best Selling Author

## “CAs have Expertise to Play a Critical Role in Fostering Innovations and Inclusive Growth”



“India has 1.3 billion people, yet corporations produce goods and services which only cater to a fraction of the population. There are over 500 million Indians who do not have access to health care, housing, transportation, and many other products that we take for granted. Inclusive growth demands that we must convert these non-consumers into consumers. That will require breakthrough innovations.

Take, for instance, the case of Narayana Health which performs open heart surgery for \$2,000. The same surgery in the US will cost \$150,000. Yet, Narayana Health’s quality is world class. For instance, mortality rates at Narayana Health 30-days after surgery is 1.2% whereas

it is 1.9% in the US. In short, breakthrough business models are about world class quality products at ultra low prices. Given their levels of uncertainty and risk, such innovations cannot be judged based on short-term financial results.

Chartered Accountants have expertise in measuring performance and as such, they can play a critical role in fostering inclusive growth since performance metrics for breakthrough innovations are fundamentally different from those of managing established businesses,” says, CA. Govindarajan, who is also the Coxe Distinguished Professor at Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. His latest book is *Three Box Solution: A Strategy For Leading Innovation*.

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CA. Divyesh Muni, Leading Mountaineer

## “Traits Acquired as a CA & CA Student Help Me to Excel in Mountaineering”



“The experience as a practicing CA, gained over the years, including training, has contributed to my success not only as a passionate Mountaineer but also helped me in living a more fulfilling life,” says CA. Muni, 54, who has been an ace and acclaimed mountaineer for last 37 years.

“Our profession trains the mind to think clearly, interpret, analyse and understand facts, figures and situations. Based on concepts and principles learnt, we have mastered the art of risk management, solving complex problems and decision-making. We develop patience, tenacity and a will to work through challenging circumstances.”

“Mountaineering involves goal-setting (peaks), project management (complex climbing expeditions), overcoming obstacles (steep

slopes, deep chasms, inclement weather) in fast changing and uncertain environment. I continue to apply the traits, characteristics and vision acquired as a CA and CA student to excel in my passion of mountaineering,” adds CA. Muni who has participated in 27 Himalayan Expeditions, climbed 35 Himalayan peaks of which 21 are first ascents or new routes. He was the leader of five of his seven joint expeditions with foreign teams.

“My profession and passion has, therefore, been mutually beneficial. I have met a spectrum of people having varied financial strengths, thereby giving me an insight on their co-relation with wealth in the pursuit of happiness and well-being. This has given me the greatest gift of understanding life beyond the boundaries of financial wealth,” acknowledges CA. Muni, who is currently the Vice President

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of the prestigious *Himalayan Club* and has won several awards including *Climbing Award* for 2014 by Indian Mountaineering Foundation and *Jagdish Nanavati Award* for Excellence in Mountaineering for three years consecutively.

“At 70, ICAI and Indian accountancy profession is fast expanding, particularly with emergence of newer avenues of practice. In the ever-changing business environment we play a

crucial role steering the growth of the economy and the country as a whole to take lead in society and become country’s pillar of support and strength.”

He is also an avid photographer. The film of their expedition of 2016 “*200 Meters*” won the Best Mountaineering Film Award at the IMF Mountain Film Festival and the award for the Best Foreign Film at Sierra Nevada Mountain Film Festival.

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## CA. Rajesh Chaplot, Winner of Highest NRI Award

### “Indian CAs Destined to be Part of the Solution to Any Economic Problem”



“Heartiest congratulations for CA Day – 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2019. Proud to be part of this great Profession!!!

“As a Chartered Accountant, 20 years ago when I decided to move to Africa, I never thought I will achieve this success, fame and receive *Pravasi Bhartiya Samman*, the

highest award for an NRI at the hands of the President of India (23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019).

“Achieving success, irrespective of the time it takes, or difficulties you face in achieving your goal, was a lesson we all learnt during our CA exams. Our profession sharpens analytical skills and decision-making abilities which in turn, lead CAs to become great leaders in their journey of life,” says CA. Rajesh Chaplot, the founder and 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary General of Indian Business Forum in

Uganda, who has also won many other awards, including *Ambassador of Indian Award 2016* and *International Leaders Award* from ICAI in 2018.

“Remember, that the responsibility of a CA does not end with counting numbers or compliance, but he also has to take care of the country’s economy and keep India’s flag high in their country of residence. We the NRI members of CA chapters outside India need to meet annually in different countries for collective brainstorming in this regard. As the saying goes *coming together is the beginning, keeping together is the progress and working together is the success*.

“Chartered Accountants must realise that they need to become market driven, rather than regulation driven, offering more value-added rather than only traditional compliance accounting services. We should not only produce professionals, but should also produce professional entrepreneurs. In the recent past, economy of every country on earth has undergone a great turmoil. No one profession or government will solve the problems we face, but as accountants, we are destined to be part of the solution to any economic problem,” says CA. Chaplot, who was on the Board of Uganda manufacturers Association for 6 years. He was the Chairman of the Indian Association Uganda from 2012 to 2014.

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