



The Institute of
Chartered Accountants of India
[Set up by an Act of Parliament]
Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

**NEWS
LETTER**

Private Circulation Only

JUNE 2026

Chairperson's Message



Dear Members,

As we step into the month of June, it is a pleasure to look back on a month that was both productive and enjoyable for our branch. The enthusiasm and support extended by members across all our programmes continue to inspire us and strengthen the spirit of our professional community.

May commenced with the successful National Conference on the Income Tax Act, 2025, held on 7th and 8th May under the aegis of the Direct Taxes Committee of ICAI. The conference brought together distinguished speakers and professionals for insightful discussions on the new tax framework. We were privileged to have Shri Manoj Abraham IPS, Director, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, as the Chief Guest. His address was thought-provoking and added great value to the event.

The branch also had the opportunity to interact with the Association of Commerce Teachers on 11th May. Such engagements help strengthen our relationship with the academic community while creating greater awareness about the Chartered Accountancy profession among students and educators.

As part of our continuing professional development initiatives, members benefited from the Study Circle Meeting conducted during the month, which provided practical perspectives on emerging developments impacting the profession. The DPDP Certification Course held in May was another important initiative aimed at equipping members with knowledge in a rapidly evolving regulatory environment.

While professional learning remained a key focus, May was equally memorable for the sporting activities organised by the branch. The Intra Branch Cricket Tournament and Football Tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from members. The energy, team spirit and sporting excellence displayed throughout the events made them truly enjoyable and brought members together beyond the professional arena.

We now look forward to one of the most anticipated events of the year—our Annual Sports Day on 7th June 2026 at Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium. We are delighted that family events will once again form part of the celebrations, making it an occasion for the entire ICAI family to come together. The Intra Branch Badminton and Table Tennis Tournaments will also be conducted as part of the sporting festivities.

A special feature introduced this year is the *Sathiavagheeswaran Memorial Ever-Rolling Trophy*. We hope this initiative will encourage greater participation, teamwork and sportsmanship while honouring a cherished legacy.

At this juncture, I would like to place on record our sincere appreciation to our Sports Coordinators — *CA. Akhil R Kumar, CA. Hari Narayanan, CA. Remya C, CA. Sudhakar Vaman Rao, CA. Sujith Vijayan and CA. Ritu Sekhar R* — whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental in planning and organising the sporting activities of the branch.

My heartfelt thanks also go to our Sports Captains — *CA. Vinod Johnny, CA. Arun Rajan, CA. Jude Antony Lourdan and CA. Syam Mohan* — for their enthusiasm, leadership and tireless efforts in encouraging participation among members. The commitment, coordination and positive spirit displayed by the coordinators and captains have been truly commendable and have played a significant role in making these events a grand success.

On behalf of the Managing Committee, I extend my sincere gratitude to every member who has participated in and supported the activities of the branch. Your involvement is what makes our branch vibrant, active and progressive.

As we move ahead, let us continue to learn from one another, strengthen our professional bonds and create more opportunities to connect, collaborate and grow together.

Warm regards,

CA. Julie G Varghese

Chairperson

ICAI Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

Secretary's Message



Dear Esteemed Professional Colleagues,

May 2026 was a month that truly reflected the vibrancy of our Branch, bringing together professional learning, leadership engagement, outreach initiatives, and member fellowship. The enthusiastic participation of members across diverse programmes once again demonstrated the strength and spirit of our professional fraternity.

The month commenced with the All India Managing Committee Members Meet held at Ernakulam on 4th May 2026 under the leadership of Central Council Member CA. Babu Abraham Kallivayalil and Regional Council Member CA. Deepa Varghese. All Managing Committee members of our Branch actively participated in the programme, which provided an excellent platform for interaction, exchange of ideas, and discussions on strengthening branch activities and member services.

On 7th and 8th May 2026, the Branch successfully hosted the National Conference on the Income Tax Act, 2025 at Lemon Tree Premier, Thiruvananthapuram. The conference witnessed excellent participation and featured distinguished speakers from across the country, providing valuable insights into the evolving direct tax framework.

The Association of Commerce Teachers, Trivandrum Meet was conducted on 11th May 2026 at ICAI Bhawan. The programme served as a meaningful platform to engage with the academic community and strengthen awareness about the Chartered Accountancy profession among educators and aspiring students.

The Branch organised seminars on "Labour Code – Overview of New Labour Laws, Compliance Requirements and Practical Issues in Implementation" on 14th May 2026 at ICAI Bhawan, Thiruvananthapuram and on 18th May 2026 at Nagercoil. Led by CA. Jeen Paul, the sessions were highly informative and received encouraging participation from members and professionals in the region.

Our Branch also actively participated in the PRARAMBH 2026 outreach programmes organised by the Income Tax Department on the Income Tax Act, 2025. Programmes were conducted on 14th May 2026 at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology and on 15th May 2026 at Windsor Rajadhani, Kowdiar, providing opportunities for professional collaboration and public awareness.

From 15th to 17th May 2026, ICAI Bhawan hosted the 3-Day Intensive Course on Data Protection Compliance and Audit Certification (DPCAC). Attended by around 20 participants, the programme offered valuable insights into the rapidly evolving area of data protection and compliance.

As part of our service initiatives during the tax compliance season, the Branch continued its Income Tax Help Desk activities. We place on record our sincere appreciation to CA. Kiran Jacob Thomas, CA. Vyshakh V, and CA. Aswin V Gopal for managing the Help Desks conducted on 15th, 22nd, and 29th May 2026 respectively and for their dedicated service to members and the public.

The month concluded on an energetic and memorable note with the Intra-Branch Cricket Tournament on 22nd May 2026 and the Intra-Branch Football Tournament on 24th May 2026. These events witnessed enthusiastic participation, excellent sportsmanship, and tremendous camaraderie among members. Beyond the games themselves, they reminded us that the strength of our profession lies not only in knowledge and expertise, but also in the relationships, friendships, and sense of belonging we build together.

The success of every programme conducted during the month is a reflection of the commitment and support of our members, speakers, volunteers, and Managing Committee members. On behalf of the Managing Committee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making May a productive, engaging, and memorable month for our Branch.

As we step into a new month, let us continue to learn, connect, and grow together while upholding the values and excellence that define our profession.

Warm Regards,

CA. Jithin Mathew Kurian
Secretary
Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)



EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME (ECLGS) 5.0 LIQUIDITY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY THE WEST ASIA CRISIS

CA. Anal Padmanabhan

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) is widely seen as one of the most impactful financial relief measures introduced by the Government of India during and after the COVID-19 period. At a time when businesses across sectors were facing severe liquidity pressure and uncertainty, the scheme helped banks and NBFCs continue lending by providing sovereign-backed guarantee support. It also played a major role in helping businesses to survive the crisis, protect jobs, maintain operations, and prevent large-scale stress in the banking system.

In May 2026, the Government introduced ECLGS 5.0 as a special support measure for businesses affected by the ongoing West Asia crisis and the resulting economic disruptions. Rising fuel costs, supply-chain disturbances, freight escalation, and global uncertainty have affected several sectors, especially businesses dependent on imports, exports, logistics, and external markets. The intention of the scheme is to provide temporary liquidity support to otherwise viable businesses facing short-term stress. Under ECLGS 5.0, eligible borrowers include MSMEs, non-MSMEs, and scheduled passenger airline enterprises. MSMEs and non-MSMEs can avail additional assistance up to 20% of the peak fund-based working capital outstanding during Q4 of FY 2025-26, subject to a ceiling of ₹100 crore. Eligible facilities include cash credit, overdraft, WCDL, WCTL, packing credit, bills discounted, and similar fund-based facilities, excluding temporary or ad-hoc limits.

Some of the key features of the scheme are:

- Government guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for other eligible borrowers
- No guarantee fee, processing fee, or prepayment penalty
- No requirement for additional collateral, personal guarantee, or corporate guarantee
- Interest rate caps and repayment period up to 5 years, including moratorium benefits

While the scheme offers meaningful relief, lending under ECLGS 5.0 remains subject to normal credit appraisal and lender assessment. So, the businesses are expected to demonstrate that the financial stress is temporary and that operations remain fundamentally viable.

Government guarantee support is intended to provide temporary stability during difficult conditions and should not lead to excessive leverage merely because collateral requirements are relaxed. From a financial discipline perspective, businesses availing support under the scheme may require a stronger cash-flow monitoring and prudent working capital management during the support period

DATA IN A NEW ERA: THE DPDP ACT, GLOBAL PARALLELS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CA. Ashwin C Nair

Currency of the Digital Age

Data has become the defining resource of the twenty-first century economy. Its movement powers global commerce, drives technological innovation, and shapes the delivery of public services. Yet this very value makes it a target for misuse, exploitation, and breach. Governments across the world have responded with comprehensive legislation to regulate the collection, processing, and transfer of personal data.

India, home to one of the world's largest and fastest-growing digital populations, could not remain outside this regulatory shift. After years of legislative deliberation anchored in the Supreme Court's 2017 Puttaswamy judgment affirming privacy as a fundamental right, Parliament enacted the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. With the notification of the DPDP Rules on 13 November 2025, India has joined the ranks of nations with a modern, enforceable data privacy framework and with that, the compliance obligations for every organisation that handles personal data have fundamentally changed.

The Global Data Protection Landscape

No understanding of the DPDP Act is complete without placing it in its global context. Data privacy regulation is no longer a regional concern, it is a worldwide governance movement.

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), effective since 2018, set the global benchmark. Its defining feature is extra-territorial reach: any organisation anywhere in the world that processes the personal data of individuals located within the EU must comply. The GDPR establishes seven foundational principles — lawfulness and transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, security, and accountability and grants individuals powerful rights including the 'Right to be Forgotten' and data portability. Penalties can reach the greater of €20 million or 4% of global annual turnover.

Beyond Europe, a global patchwork has emerged. The California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) governs data rights for residents of the United States' largest state. Brazil's Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados (LGPD) mirrors much of the GDPR's structure. China's Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL) takes a more state-centric approach. Each jurisdiction presents its own compliance matrix, creating both a challenge and an opportunity for professionals who can navigate across frameworks.

India's DPDP Act: Key Provisions

The DPDP Act aims to protect the privacy of Indian citizens, termed Data Principals while enabling lawful data use by organisations, termed Data Fiduciaries. Its core provisions are as follows.

- **Consent-first processing:** Unlike the GDPR's six lawful bases, the DPDP Act is primarily consent-driven. Consent must be free, specific, informed, and expressed through a clear affirmative action, accompanied by a notice in plain language. Limited 'legitimate use' exemptions exist for state welfare, medical emergencies, and statutory compliance.



- **Rights of Data Principals:** Individuals may access information about their data, seek correction or erasure, nominate a representative, and raise grievances, though the right to data portability is less elaborated than under the GDPR.
- **Obligations of Data Fiduciaries:** Organisations must implement security safeguards, report all breaches to the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI), delete data once its purpose is served, and maintain a grievance redressal mechanism.
- **Data transfers:** Unlike the GDPR's adequacy-assessment model, the DPDP Act permits cross-border transfers by default, empowering the Central Government to prohibit transfers to specific countries as notified.
- **Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs):** Entities processing large volumes of sensitive data may be designated SDFs, attracting enhanced obligations: a resident Data Protection Officer, independent Data Auditor, Data Protection Impact Assessments, and data localisation requirements.
- **Penalties:** Financial penalties reach up to ₹250 crore per violation, enforced by the DPBI

GDPR vs. DPDP Act: A Snapshot Comparison

Aspect	GDPR (EU)	DPDP Act (India)
Territorial scope	Applies to any processor of EU residents' data, globally	Applies within India + to processing connected with offerings to Indian residents
Lawful bases	Six bases: consent, legitimate interest, contract, legal obligation, vital interests, public task	Primarily consent; limited legitimate use exemptions for state, medical, and statutory purposes
Individual rights	Access, rectification, erasure, portability, objection	Access, correction, erasure, nomination of representative, grievance redressal
Data transfers	Adequacy mechanism; restricted to countries with adequate protection	Permitted by default; Central Government may notify restricted countries
Maximum penalty	€20 million or 4% of global annual turnover, whichever is higher	₹250 crore per violation
Enforcement body	National Data Protection Authorities in each EU member state	Data Protection Board of India

CA Firms as Data Fiduciaries: What Changes

Every CA firm, audit practice, tax advisory firm, insolvency professional, and valuer that determines the purpose and means of processing client data qualifies as a Data Fiduciary under the DPDP Act. This is not a technicality it carries direct statutory liability. Firms must immediately take stock of the personal data they hold, how long they retain it, with whom they share it, and on what basis.

Key compliance actions include revising engagement letters to include DPDP-compliant consent notices; executing Data Processing Agreements with all cloud vendors and outsourced service providers; implementing access controls, encryption, and breach response protocols; establishing a documented grievance redressal mechanism; and deleting or anonymising client data once the engagement purpose is fulfilled. Where potential non-compliance exposure is material, it must be assessed and disclosed as a contingent liability under Ind AS 37 or AS 29

Compliance Timeline

Stage	Deadline	Key Requirements
Stage 1	13 Nov 2025	DPBI established and operational; complaint portal launched. Firms should commence data mapping and gap assessment.
Stage 2	13 Nov 2026	Core Data Fiduciary obligations become enforceable. Revised engagement letters, consent notices, and vendor DPAs must be in place. Consent Manager registration opens.
Stage 3	13 May 2027	Full enforcement. IT (SPDI) Rules 2011 cease to apply. SDF obligations — DPO appointment, Data Auditor, and DPIAs — become fully operational.

Opportunities for Chartered Accountants

The DPDP Act is not merely a compliance burden — it is one of the most significant practice development opportunities the profession has seen in a decade. CAs bring exactly the skill set the law demands: regulatory expertise, systems audit capability, risk management rigour, and governance judgment. The following avenues are already open.

- **DPDP Compliance Advisory:** Businesses across every sector must map their data flows, redesign consent mechanisms, renegotiate vendor contracts, and build governance frameworks. CAs can offer end-to-end advisory services — from gap assessment to policy drafting to board-level reporting — positioning themselves as the primary DPDP compliance partner for their clients.
- **Independent Data Audits:** Significant Data Fiduciaries are statutorily required to engage independent Data Auditors. This is a natural extension of the systems and process audit work CAs already perform. Members holding DISA or CISA credentials are particularly well-suited. ICAI is actively working with MeitY and the Data Protection Board to formalise the CA's role in this framework.
- **Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs):** High-risk processing activities require structured DPIAs — identifying risks, assessing their materiality, and recommending controls. The methodology closely mirrors the risk assessment frameworks CAs apply in audit and advisory engagements every day.
- **Cross-Border Compliance for Multinationals:** Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies must simultaneously navigate the DPDP Act and frameworks such as the GDPR, CCPA, or PIPL. CAs with an understanding of multiple regulatory regimes can advise multinational clients on building interoperable compliance architectures — a high-value and growing niche.
- **Financial Reporting and Disclosure:** Potential DPDP non-compliance constitutes a contingent liability under Ind AS 37 and AS 29. Statutory auditors must assess clients' data protection governance as part of risk evaluation and ensure material exposures are appropriately disclosed. This extends the scope of the audit risk assessment process.
- **Internal Audit and Data Governance:** Organisations are building internal data governance committees and privacy operations functions. CAs in industry roles — as CFOs, internal auditors, or risk officers — are well-placed to lead or oversee these functions, bringing financial rigour to what is often treated as a purely technical domain.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Most Indian businesses, particularly SMEs, have limited awareness of their DPDP obligations. CAs can design and deliver compliance training programmes for clients and their teams, creating a recurring engagement model built on ongoing trust

Conclusion

India's DPDP Act, 2023, did not emerge in isolation. It is part of a worldwide reckoning with the power of personal data — a reckoning that began with the GDPR in 2018 and has since spread to Brazil, China, California, and beyond. India's framework reflects this global movement while being calibrated to its own digital economy and governance needs.

For the Chartered Accountancy profession, the implications are twofold. First, firms must put their own house in order: revised engagement letters, vendor contracts, security controls, and grievance mechanisms. Second, and more importantly, the profession must recognise that data governance is a domain where CAs are not bystanders but natural leaders. The advisory pipeline is rich — compliance engagements, data audits, DPIAs, financial disclosures, and cross-border regulatory navigation all await those who step forward.

The data age is here. The question is not whether Chartered Accountants will be part of it but whether they will lead it

EVENT SNAPS

Two-Day National Conference on The Income-Tax Act, 2025



EVENT SNAPS

DPDP Course on 15-17 May 2026



MC meeting at Ernakulam



EVENT SNAPS



Seminar on Labour Code | 14 May 2026



Intra Cricket Tournament | 22 May 2026



New School Bag Distribution @ Anganavadi | 29 May 2026

HELPDESK @ INCOME TAX



CA. Vysakh V



CA. Aswin V Gopal



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Jun	PHILOMINA ASHOK JOSEPH
3	Jun	DEEPAK BHASI
4	Jun	HARIKRISHNAN R S
4	Jun	MUKUNDALAL P
4	Jun	SAJU K R
6	Jun	FELIX M
6	Jun	REMYA C
8	Jun	MOHANACHANDRAN NAIR
9	Jun	AJIT RAVINDRAN
9	Jun	DINU CHANDRAN R
9	Jun	LAKSHMI PRIYA ANUP
10	Jun	RAKESH R S
12	Jun	JOY J
13	Jun	SHIVARAMAN P K
13	Jun	THOMAS JACOB K
14	Jun	DEVARAJ P R
16	Jun	DEEPA R ACHARI
16	Jun	SANKARANARAYANAN SATHIAVAGEESWARAN
16	Jun	MUTHU KRISHNAN V M
17	Jun	FELLEGRIN JOHN J
22	Jun	GEORGE ABRAHAM KURIAN
23	Jun	GOPIKRISHNAN S
27	Jun	ARUN JOSE
28	Jun	SALEEM PV
29	Jun	UNNIKRISHNAN NAIR A
30	Jun	SRIRAM A
30	Jun	SANIL KUMAR M B



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

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Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

Invitation for Articles / Write-ups

Articles / Write-ups are hereby invited from members on any key topics to be published in the upcoming e-Newsletter. Members may kindly send their articles to trivandrum@icai.org with cc to icaitvm@gmail.com with the subject line "Article for Newsletter" on or before the 02nd of the following month along with mentioned details:

1. Name
2. Membership Number
3. Contact Number
4. E-mail id
5. Photo
6. Article in docx format

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