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

NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 2026

Private Circulation Only

Chairperson's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

July has been a month that reminded us of what makes our Branch special — not just our professional achievements, but the friendships, participation and sense of community that bring us together.
We began the month by marking Chartered Accountants' Day on 1st July. A particularly special part of the celebrations was meeting our senior-most member, CA. Subbaiah N, at his residence. Spending time with him and receiving his blessings was a moment we will cherish. His journey and contribution to our profession are an inspiration to all of us.

The CA Day celebrations also gave us an opportunity to serve. The Blood Donation Camp saw members and well-wishers coming forward generously. The morning Walkathon from Kanakakkunnu to ICAI Bhawan, with over 50 participants, added a wonderful sense of energy and fellowship to the occasion.

The student community brought a different kind of vibrancy to the month through ARCUS 13.0 on 5th July, the SICASA cultural programme. There were certainly a few shortcomings in the conduct of the event, for which we sincerely regret any inconvenience caused. Yet, the enthusiasm of our students, their talent and, most importantly, the happiness of being together made the day special. Congratulations to Team Kaithamukku, the winners, and to every team that participated wholeheartedly.

Our members also made us proud on the sporting front by finishing Runner-up in the All Kerala Indoor Sports Event at Kochi. The dedication of every participant deserves appreciation, with our women members putting up particularly commendable performances.

The CA Family Fest at Sree Moolam Club on 3rd July was another occasion that brought our professional family together. Honouring members who completed 25 and 50 years in the profession, welcoming newly qualified CAs, recognising meritorious students and celebrating our Sports Day winners made the evening truly meaningful. The presence of Shri. Prasanth N, IAS, and Shri. K. V. Bangarraju added to the significance of the occasion.

We also continued to focus on keeping our members equipped for the future through the Level-1 Certification Course conducted from 10th to 12th July. It was encouraging to see members making time for professional development amidst their busy schedules.

On 15th July, we came together at ICAI Bhawan to remember our senior member CA. Mohana Kumar G, who passed away on 22nd June. The condolence meeting was an opportunity to honour his memory and acknowledge his association with our profession and Branch.

As I reflect on the month, I feel that our biggest achievement has been the participation of our people. From senior members to young students, and from our office bearers to the Branch staff, everyone has contributed in their own way.

My heartfelt thanks to every member, student and staff member for standing with the Branch and extending your wholehearted support. Your encouragement gives us the confidence to take up new initiatives and do better with every programme.

We may not get everything perfect every time, but when we have the willingness to come together, learn from our experiences and support one another, every initiative becomes worthwhile. Let us carry this spirit forward into the months ahead.

With warm regards

ICAI Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

CA. Julie G Varghese
Chairperson
ICAI Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

Secretary's Message

Dear Esteemed Professional Colleagues,

July was a month filled with celebration, fellowship, professional learning and meaningful engagement for the ICAI Thiruvananthapuram Branch.

The month began with the 78th Chartered Accountants' Day celebrations on 1st July. As part of the celebrations, the office bearers had the privilege of visiting and honouring our senior-most member, CA. Subbaiah N, at his residence. His distinguished service and invaluable contributions to the profession and to our Branch have left a lasting legacy. It was a privilege to seek his blessings and wish him continued good health and happiness.

The CA Day celebrations also included a Blood Donation Camp, bringing together members and well-wishers for a meaningful cause. The enthusiastic participation of our members reflected the profession's commitment not only to excellence but also to service to society.

Another highlight of the day was the Walkathon from Kanakakkunnu to ICAI Bhawan. More than 50 members participated with great enthusiasm, despite it being a working day. Seeing our members come together in the early morning hours and walk towards the Branch was truly heartening. The wonderful participation made the initiative a grand success.

Our Branch also achieved a proud sporting milestone by securing the Runner-up position at the All Kerala Indoor Sports Event held in Kochi. Our members displayed remarkable sportsmanship, dedication and team spirit throughout the event. A special appreciation goes to our women members, whose outstanding performances played a significant role in this achievement. Congratulations to all the participants and medal winners who made the Branch proud.

On 3rd July, we came together with our families for the much-awaited CA Family Fest 2026 at Sree Moolam Club. The evening was a celebration of unity, values and excellence, bringing members and their families together in an atmosphere of fellowship and joy. We were privileged to have Shri. Prasanth N, IAS, Special Secretary to the Government of Kerala, as the Chief Guest and Shri. K. V. Bangarraju, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Thiruvananthapuram Circle, as the Special Guest. The programme included the felicitation of members completing 25 and 50 years in the profession, recognition of newly qualified members, cash awards for meritorious students and prize distribution for Sports Day winners. The cultural programmes and dinner added to the warmth of the evening

Keeping pace with the changing professional landscape, the Branch conducted the AI Level-1 Certification Course from 10th to 12th July 2026. The programme provided our members with an opportunity to develop practical knowledge and capabilities in Artificial Intelligence, an area that will increasingly shape the future of our profession.

On 15th July, we held a condolence meeting at ICAI Bhawan to pay homage to our respected senior member, CA. Mohana Kumar G, who passed away on 22nd June 2026. The gathering gave members an opportunity to remember his contributions to the profession and to offer our heartfelt respects to the departed soul.

The Branch also continued its IT Help Desk initiative, providing regular assistance to members in addressing their income tax-related queries and other online compliance requirements. We sincerely appreciate CA. Jacob Joseph, CA. Daniel Jhonson, CA. Nirmal Hari and CA. Aswin V Gopal for volunteering their time and expertise in support of this initiative. Their valuable service and commitment to assisting fellow members are deeply appreciated
July once again demonstrated the strength of our Branch — a strength built on the active participation, support and fellowship of our members.

As we move forward, let us continue to learn together, celebrate together and contribute together towards building an even stronger and more vibrant professional community.

Warm Regards

CA. Jithin Mathew Kurian
Secretary
Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

GST Updates – June 2026:

Important GSTN System Changes and GSTAT Appeal Extension

CA. Sujith Vijayan

The month of June 2026 witnessed several important procedural developments under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework. While no major notifications were issued, the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) introduced significant updates relating to the E-Way Bill system and the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) portal. These changes are aimed at improving system efficiency, providing additional time for stakeholder preparedness, and ensuring a smoother compliance experience.

1. E-Way Bill Portal Enhancements Deferred to 1 August 2026

The GSTN has postponed the implementation of two important E-Way Bill portal enhancements from **15 June 2026** to **1 August 2026**. The decision was taken after receiving representations from trade bodies, industry associations, ERP vendors, and GST Suvidha Providers (GSPs), who requested additional time for system readiness and API integration

A. Mandatory "Ship To GSTIN" in Bill-To/Ship-To Transactions

From **1 August 2026**, taxpayers will be required to capture the **"Ship To GSTIN"** as a mandatory field in all **Bill-To/Ship-To** and **Combination** transactions where the consignee is a registered person.

Key aspects of this enhancement include:

- Where the consignee is **unregistered**, the taxpayer must enter **"URP"** (case-insensitive) in the "Ship To GSTIN" field.
- The portal will validate that the **Bill-To GSTIN** and **Ship-To GSTIN** are different. If both GSTINs are identical, the transaction should instead be reported as a **Regular** transaction.
- To safeguard commercial confidentiality, the **Ship To GSTIN** will **not** appear on the printed E-Way Bill PDF or through the **GET E-Way Bill API**. It will be visible only to authorised tax officers for verification purposes.

This enhancement is expected to improve the accuracy of E-Way Bill data while maintaining adequate protection of sensitive business information.

B. Voluntary E-Way Bill Closure Facility

Another noteworthy enhancement is the introduction of a **Voluntary E-Way Bill Closure** facility, designed to facilitate the system-driven closure of transactions once goods have been successfully delivered.

The facility allows the following persons to close an E-Way Bill:

- Supplier
- Recipient
- Transporter
- Authorised person or driver whose mobile number is linked to the E-Way Bill

The closure can be completed either **on the date of delivery** or **on the immediately succeeding day.**

GSTN has also kept the **sandbox environment** available for ERP vendors and GSPs to complete API testing and integration before the revised implementation date of **1 August 2026.**

2. GSTAT Appeal Filing Deadline Extended to 31 July 2026

In another significant relief measure, the Government has extended the deadline for filing appeals before the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) under Section 112 of the CGST Act, 2017.**

The original due date of **30 June 2026** has now been extended to **31 July 2026.**

GST Updates – June 2026:
Important GSTN System Changes and GSTAT Appeal Extension

Why was the extension granted?

The extension became necessary due to exceptionally high traffic on the GSTAT portal during the final weeks of June. According to the Government, more than **30,000 appeals** were filed during the last fifteen days of the month, with daily filings reaching nearly **5,500 appeals**, resulting in portal congestion and technical difficulties.

What should taxpayers do?

Taxpayers who are yet to file their appeals should utilise this additional one-month window to complete the filing process well before the revised due date. Filing early will help avoid last-minute technical issues and ensure timely compliance.

Key Takeaways

- Implementation of the mandatory **"Ship To GSTIN"** requirement and the **Voluntary E-Way Bill Closure** facility has been deferred to 1 August 2026.
- Businesses should use the extended timeline to update their ERP systems and complete API integrations.
- The due date for filing appeals before the **GSTAT** has been extended to **31 July 2026,** providing much-needed relief to taxpayers facing portal-related challenges.
- Taxpayers are advised not to wait until the last date and should complete their compliance well in advance.

Sources

- GSTN Advisory dated **9 June 2026** – Extension of E-Way Bill Portal Enhancements.
- PIB Press Release dated **30 June 2026** – Extension of GSTAT Appeal Filing Deadline.
- GSTN Advisory dated **20 May 2026** – E-Way Bill Portal Enhancements.

The AI Layer:
Unlocking the Intelligence Hidden Inside Existing Business Systems

CA. Anal Padmanabhan

Every week, another AI tool is launched.
Every seminar promises an AI revolution.
Every software vendor claims to be AI-enabled.
Yet most businesses continue to ask the wrong question: "**Which AI should we buy**?"
Instead, they should be asking: "**What intelligence already exists inside the business?**"

For Chartered Accountants and finance leaders, AI represents far more than another software trend. Businesses increasingly expect professionals who can convert information into insight, anticipate risks, improve operational efficiency, and support better decisions. AI, when integrated with existing business systems, enables finance professionals to deliver this higher-value advisory without replacing the technology businesses already use.

The AI journey need not begin with a major investment or a technology overhaul. It can begin by integrating the business data that organisations already possess in structured or unstructured manner. Most entities rely on accounting software, payroll applications, inventory systems, spreadsheets, and other digital tools. These systems were introduced to support day-to-day operations, generate basic financials and reports, and maintain records for statutory and regulatory compliance. Over the years, these systems have quietly accumulated enormous volumes of structured and unstructured business information. Ironically, much of this data remains one of the most underutilised assets for business intelligence and strategic decision-making. So, the real challenge is that information remains scattered and is rarely connected in a way that helps businesses make better decisions.

The Data Is Already There

Most businesses neither recognise nor convert their accumulated data as a strategic asset. Consider a simple accounting narration in Tally: “Urgent freight charges paid for dispatch to ABC Industries due to a machine breakdown.” To a conventional accounting system, this is merely a transportation expense. To a human reader, however, it may indicate a production disruption, emergency logistics, additional costs, possible customer dissatisfaction, and underlying operational inefficiencies.

Interestingly, modern AI can understand this context even when the information is unstructured. Powered by advances in Large Language Models (LLMs) and multimodal AI, today’s systems can interpret both structured and unstructured information. LLMs enable AI to understand language much like a human reads a document, while multimodal AI extends this capability to images, scanned files, spreadsheets, audio, and other formats. As a result, AI can analyse invoices, emails, contracts, accounting narrations, spreadsheets, images, and even conversations, and connect them to form a meaningful business narrative

The Journey Begins with Integration

The real opportunity for most organisations lies not in buying another software package, but in integrating an AI layer with the systems businesses already use. Such integration becomes even more valuable for organisations operating through multiple entities, verticals, branches, or separate books of accounts. What previously required days of reconciliation, compilation, and cross-verification can often be achieved within minutes. Imagine asking your business a few simple questions:

- Which customers have become less profitable during the last six months?
- Show every expense connected with our new factory project.
- Which suppliers consistently delay deliveries?
- Show the consolidated cash position across all my companies.
- Which business unit generated the highest operating margin this month?

Instead of searching through multiple reports and spreadsheets, the answers can be generated within seconds using information the business already possesses

The AI Layer:
Unlocking the Intelligence Hidden Inside Existing Business Systems

Agentic AI

Until recently, AI's primary role was to interpret business information. However, the technology is now evolving beyond analysis. The next generation of AI is increasingly capable of assisting businesses in executing routine activities as well. Rather than merely answering questions, AI can monitor workflows, prepare draft communications, track pending approvals, generate compliance reminders, analyse contracts, reconcile documents, prepare board papers, identify policy deviations, and even recommend corrective actions. Unlike Generative AI, which primarily responds to prompts, Agentic AI can independently pursue defined business objectives by planning tasks, interacting with multiple systems, gathering information, and executing approved workflows with minimal human intervention.

Trust Begins with Secure Data

One concern naturally comes to the forefront of organisations embrace AI is Data Security. Financial records, customer information, contracts, pricing strategies, and confidential business documents represent some of an organisation's most valuable assets. AI adoption should therefore be accompanied by robust governance rather than blind enthusiasm. Fortunately, modern AI solutions also offer several safeguards to address such concerns. Businesses can deploy role-based access controls, encrypt sensitive information, mask confidential data, maintain audit trails of AI interactions, and establish approval workflows before critical actions are executed. The objective is therefore not merely to make AI intelligent, but to make it trustworthy, secure, and compliant with regulatory expectations.

Empowering People, Not Replacing Them

Whenever AI is discussed, one concern inevitably arises, it will replace people. But in my view, for small and medium enterprises, the opposite is far more likely. Because, presently skilled employees spend a significant portion of their time collecting information, reconciling data, preparing reports, locating supporting documents, and following up across departments. These activities are necessary, but they leave less time for analysis and decision-making

AI can automate much of this repetitive work and can provide insights, allowing professionals to focus on higher-value activities such as analysing trends, improving processes, identifying risks, solving business problems, and advising management. As a result, professionals can focus on higher-value work. For example:

- An accountant can become a financial analyst rather than a data entry operator.
- Production manager can spend more time improving efficiency than preparing reports.
- Finance team can focus on insights instead of reconciliations.
- Business leaders can take informed decisions with less search for information

The Human Loop Will Always Matter

AI can identify patterns, generate alternatives, predict outcomes, and automate routine processes. However, judgement, ethics, commercial wisdom, regulatory interpretation, and accountability remain fundamentally human responsibilities. A recommendation generated by AI may appear convincing, yet only an experienced individual can evaluate whether it aligns with business strategy, regulatory requirements, customer relationships, or organisational values.

The most successful organisations will therefore be those that create an effective Human-in-the-Loop model, where AI provides speed, scale, and analytical capability, while humans contribute experience, professional scepticism, creativity, and final decision-making. The competitive advantage will not come from AI alone, but from how effectively people use AI to make better decisions

A New Era of Governance

For Chartered Accountants, CFOs, Financial Controllers, Internal Auditors, and business advisors, AI represents far more than an efficiency tool, it transforms the very way organisations are governed. Traditional assurance functions have largely depended on periodic reviews, sample testing, and retrospective reporting. AI enables a shift towards continuous monitoring, real-time insights, and proactive risk management

The AI Layer:
Unlocking the Intelligence Hidden Inside Existing Business Systems

Instead of merely reporting what has already happened, finance professionals can identify emerging risks, detect anomalies, and support management with timely, data-driven recommendations. Routine compliance activities become more efficient, while strategic oversight becomes more informed.

It enables to:

- Examine entire populations of transactions instead of relying on samples.
- Enable continuous monitoring, predictive insights, and early warning signals.
- Provides meaningful answers simply by asking business questions.
- Proactively identifies risk indicators, fraud patterns, compliance gaps etc.

Conclusion

AI is not here to replace accounting systems, operating platforms, or the people who use them. It is here to transform the information already within them into intelligence that supports better decisions.

For finance leaders and professionals, the opportunity is not merely to adopt AI, but to lead this transformation. Those who combine financial expertise with intelligent technology layer will move beyond compliance and reporting to become trusted architects of strategy, governance, and enterprise value

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EVENT SNAPS

Happy Onam

2026 CA Day Celebrations | 01 July 2026

CA FEST | 03 July 2026

EVENT SNAPS

AI Level - 01 Certification Course | 10 -12 July 2026

Condolence meeting CA. Mohana Kumar G | 15 July 2026

HELPDESK @ INCOME TAX

Happy Onam

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"May the colors and brightness of Onam fill your home with happiness, prosperity, and joy. Wishing you and your family a blessed Onam!"

CA. Jacob Joseph

CA. Daniel Jhonson

CA. Nirmal Hari

CA. Aswin V Gopal

WISHES TO BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS &

Happy Onam

2	Aug	ARJUN GOPAN G
2	Aug	JACOB RAJAN
4	Aug	ABHILASH B
4	Aug	SHIJIN M S
5	Aug	RAJESH A
5	Aug	RAKESH J
10	Aug	ARAVIND A T
12	Aug	ASHA ZACHARIAH
13	Aug	SREEKANTH SANAGARAM
14	Aug	ASISH CHERIAN ABRAHAM
14	Aug	MATHEW SAMUEL
15	Aug	RATHEESH R S
15	Aug	SRINIVASAN R
17	Aug	PRINCE AROCKIYA JOHN
18	Aug	HARIKRISHNA KUMAR S R
21	Aug	ANAGHA T S
22	Aug	ASHA SREE M NAIR
23	Aug	NISHA ABRAHAM
23	Aug	VELAYUDHAN S
26	Aug	MIRIAM GIRISH
26	Aug	ARAVIND V
27	Aug	GOWRI SHANKAR M
31	Aug	ANOOP RAJ

"WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS ONAM"

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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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