



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

**NEWS
LETTER**
OCTOBER 2026

Private Circulation Only

Chairperson's Message



Dear Esteemed Professional Colleagues,

September was a month of purposeful activities for our Branch, with a good mix of professional learning, student engagement and initiatives aimed at serving the public. Each of these programmes reflects our continued efforts to keep the Branch connected with our members and the wider community.

5 September 2026 – MSME Help Desk

We began the month with the MSME Help Desk, extending professional guidance and support to micro, small and medium enterprises. As Chartered Accountants, we have an important role to play in helping businesses understand their financial and compliance requirements. Initiatives like this give us an opportunity to share our knowledge and make a meaningful difference.

11 September 2026 – Tax Audit Seminar

The Branch organised a seminar on Tax Audit led by CA Cotha Srinivasan. The session offered valuable practical insights and an opportunity for members to strengthen their understanding of tax audit matters. I thank the resource person for sharing his knowledge and the members who took the time to participate.

16 & 17 September 2026 – Career Counselling and School Outreach

Our interactions with Christ Nagar School and St. Thomas School through career counselling and other programmes were an opportunity to connect with young minds. Introducing students to the Chartered Accountancy profession and helping them understand the opportunities it offers is an important part of our responsibility towards the next generation. I hope these interactions have encouraged many students to look at CA as a promising career path.

Every Friday – Income Tax Clinic for the Public

The Income Tax Clinic, conducted every Friday, continues to be a meaningful initiative through which we extend professional assistance to the public. I would like to place on record my heartfelt thanks to all our members who have voluntarily come forward to offer their time and expertise. Their willingness to serve people who need guidance is truly commendable. It is this spirit of service and generosity that makes our profession valuable beyond our workplaces.

22 September 2026 – Past Chairmen's Meeting

The Past Chairmen's Meeting at BuMi Restobar was a pleasant opportunity to reconnect with our former leaders and spend time sharing thoughts and experiences. Their guidance, encouragement and contributions have played a significant role in shaping our Branch over the years. We continue to draw strength from their experience, and I am grateful for their continued association and support.

Looking Ahead – October 2026

As we step into October, we look forward to engaging our members and the public through a few important initiatives. We are planning sessions on Real Estate, which will provide an opportunity to explore relevant professional and practical aspects of this sector.

We are also planning a public outreach programme in association with KIMSHEALTH Cancer Centre, focusing on breast cancer screening. Through this initiative, we hope to encourage greater awareness of the importance of regular screening and early detection. I look forward to the support and participation of our members in making this effort meaningful.

I take this opportunity to thank all our members, resource persons, past office bearers, educational institutions and volunteers for standing with the Branch and contributing to its activities. The support we receive from our members, especially those who willingly give their time for the benefit of others, is what keeps our Branch moving forward.

Let us continue to work together, learn from one another and extend the benefits of our profession to the wider community. I look forward to another month of meaningful interactions and collective efforts.

Warm regards,

CA. Julie G Varghese

Chairperson

ICAI Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

Secretary's Message



Dear Esteemed Professional Colleagues,

September is a demanding month for many of us. Between tax audits, deadlines and client commitments, our days tend to fill up quickly. Yet, amidst these demands, there was room to learn together, introduce young minds to our profession and come together in celebration. These moments were an equally meaningful part of September at our Branch.

On 11th September, the one-day CPE Seminar on Tax Audit at ICAI Bhawan brought members together for a subject closely connected to their work during the month. Organised under the aegis of the Taxation Audits Quality Review Board, ICAI, the programme featured CA. Cotha S Srinivas, Former Central Council Member, ICAI, who led the session on “360° of Tax Audit”. During a busy audit season, opportunities to pause, revisit our understanding and discuss practical issues together have a special relevance.

The Branch also continued its Income Tax Help Desk initiative at the Income Tax Office, where our members volunteered to assist the public with income tax-related queries and filing requirements. We sincerely thank CA. Gopu Saran, CA. Syam Mohan and CA. Keerthi M Nair for volunteering their time and expertise. Their willingness to help taxpayers, amidst their own professional commitments, reflects our profession's commitment to serving the wider community.

Alongside these professional activities, the Branch welcomed students from Christ Nagar Residential School and St. Thomas Residential School to ICAI Bhawan for programmes centred on “A Day in the Life of a Chartered Accountant”. The idea was to take students beyond their textbooks and give them a glimpse of what an accountant's working day looks like—from understanding business transactions and handling documents to maintaining accounts and using accounting software. Sessions on career opportunities in commerce helped them connect this practical exposure with the choices ahead of them. CA. Anil Kumar, CA. Sujith Vijayan and Dr. B. Vaidheeswaran handled the sessions. For students beginning to think about their future, seeing a profession at work can make the possibilities feel closer and clearer.

September also had its moments of fellowship. The SICASA Onam programme on 20th September brought students together to celebrate a festival that holds a special place in our lives. Alongside classes, examinations and training, occasions like these give students the space to build friendships and feel part of the larger ICAI family.

On 22nd September, the Branch held its Past Chairpersons' Meet, bringing together those who have guided the Branch through different stages of its journey. Such occasions remind us that the community we are part of today has grown through the efforts of many over the years. Staying connected with that experience is a meaningful part of taking the Branch forward.

Looking ahead, the World Forum of Accountants, scheduled for 16th to 18th December 2026 in Visakhapatnam, offers another opportunity to broaden our horizons. Its focus on technology, trust and transformation connects closely with the changes we see in our profession and the future we are preparing for.

As we move into another month, let us continue to make room for learning and for one another, even when our calendars are full. It is through these shared experiences that our Branch becomes a community we feel part of.

Jai Hind! Jai ICAI!

Warm Regards,

CA. Jithin Mathew Kurian

Secretary

Thiruvananthapuram Branch (SIRC)

ASISSE Notices and the Collection of Statistics Act: What Companies Need to Know

Why your company got this notice

If your company or LLP received a notice from the National Statistics Office (NSO) asking you to file an "ASISSE return", it is a genuine, legally binding demand, and it must be answered within one month of receipt. ASISSE stands for the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises. It is India's first annual survey of companies and LLPs in the services sector, including trading and construction.

The survey started in April 2026 and covers the financial year 2024-25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025). About 1,21,350 enterprises were picked from the GST (GSTN) database. Each state-wise GSTIN counts as a separate enterprise, so a company with GSTINs in two States may get two notices.

The notice is issued under four pieces of law, read together:

Law	What it does
Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 (7 of 2009)	The main law. Lets governments collect statistics and makes it compulsory to answer. In force since 11 June 2010.
Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Act, 2017 (21 of 2017)	Extended the Act to Jammu and Kashmir and created a "nodal officer" to coordinate statistics work. In force from 3 October 2017.
Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 (18 of 2023)	Replaced criminal fines with money penalties imposed by an adjudicating officer, with an appeal route. In force for this Act from 10 December 2024.
Collection of Statistics Rules, 2024	Lays down the procedure: notices, entry into premises, show-cause, hearing, appeal and recovery. Replaced the 2011 Rules.

The survey is purely statistical. It is not an income-tax or GST notice, and the data cannot be used as evidence against you in other proceedings (more on this below).

Who is an informant?

An informant is anyone who supplies, or is required to supply, statistical information under the Act. Once your company receives an ASISSE notice, it is an informant.

Section 2(c) of the Act spells out who is included. The definition covers any person, and also the owner, occupier, person in charge or authorised representative of:

- a company registered under the Companies Act;
- a firm registered under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932;
- a co-operative society;
- a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860;
- any association recognised or registered under any law.

This is why the ASISSE notice is addressed to "The Owner/ Occupier/ Person in-charge". In practice, the director, partner, CFO or other officer who runs the business is the person answerable for the return.

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What an informant must do. Section 6 says an informant who is asked for information is bound to give it, in the prescribed manner, to the best of its knowledge or belief. Two points matter in practice:

- **"Why us?" is not a defence.** If only a sample of businesses is asked, the fact that others were not asked does not excuse you.
- **Records must be shown on demand.** Rule 11 of the 2024 Rules requires an informant to produce, or give a copy of, its books of account, vouchers and other business records to the statistics officer or an authorised person carrying a photo identity card.

What data can be collected?

Under section 3, a government can collect statistics on economic, demographic, social, scientific and environmental matters, by a survey or otherwise, once it issues a notification in the Official Gazette. "Government" here includes any Central or State Ministry or Department, a Union territory, and local bodies such as Panchayats and Municipalities.

There are some built-in limits:

- **Subject limits.** A State or local body cannot collect statistics on Union List subjects. If the Centre is already collecting on a subject, a State cannot start a similar exercise without the Centre's approval, and vice versa.
- **The notification must say what is sought.** Under rule 5 of the 2024 Rules, it must state the subject and purpose, area, method, type of informants, reference period, nature of information, the informant's obligations, which records may be inspected, and the officers in charge.
- **Only what is necessary.** Rule 6 tells the government to keep the questions to what is "absolutely necessary", avoid excessive demands, ask businesses for figures readily available from their accounts, and accept best estimates where exact figures are not readily available.

What ASISSE asks for. For ASISSE 2026, the return covers the selected GSTIN only and draws on the balance sheet, profit and loss account and payroll records. It includes:

- enterprise details: GSTIN, activity code (NIC 2025) and status during the year;
- fixed assets, working capital and loans;
- number of employees and wages paid, in totals only (no personal data of employees);
- receipts and expenses, classified by product or service code (CPC 3.0);
- use of digital technology such as cloud computing or AI.

Along with the return, the notice asks for copies of the balance sheet, profit and loss account, employee and wage details, and the auditor's report, to support the figures. Manufacturing activity is excluded; only the services part is reported.

Power of the statistics officer to call for information

The statistics officer is the government officer appointed under section 4 to run the survey in a given area. The ASISSE notice is signed by a Deputy Director General or Director of the NSO acting as statistics officer, and it is issued under section 5(a).

Section 5: three ways to ask. The statistics officer may:

1. serve a written notice asking the informant to furnish specified information, or hand over a form (an "information schedule") to be filled in;
2. have questions on the subject put to the informant; or
3. seek information by fax, telephone, e-mail or any other electronic mode, or a mix of these.

ASISSE uses the first and third routes: a written notice with a login for the MoSPI web portal.

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Section 8: access to records and entry. The statistics officer, or a person authorised by them in writing, may:

- see any relevant record or document of the informant;
- enter, at any reasonable time, premises where such records are believed to be kept;
- inspect or take copies of records, and ask questions needed to get the information.

Rule 14 of the 2024 Rules adds safeguards. Entry is between 10:00 and 17:00, or at a time convenient to both sides, and only into the part of the premises normally open to visitors. The visitor must carry a photo identity card issued by the statistics officer.

Follow-up and verification. Rule 9 lets the statistics officer verify what you file, and NSO field staff may call or visit after you submit. Rule 9 also requires that informants be allowed to see the information they gave, so errors can be corrected.

Penalty for neglect or refusal to supply particulars

A company that ignores the notice can now be made to pay up to ₹1,00,000, plus up to ₹5,000 for every further day the default continues. These higher amounts apply from 10 December 2024, when the Jan Vishwas changes to this Act came into force

What counts as default (section 15). Any of the following:

- not producing books of account, vouchers, documents or other business records;
- neglecting or refusing to fill in and supply the particulars asked for in a form or return;
- neglecting or refusing to answer a question or inquiry made under the Act or Rules.

Old versus new. Before the amendment, this was a criminal offence tried by a Magistrate, with small fines. It is now a civil money penalty imposed by an adjudicating officer, without going to court

Default	Before 10 Dec 2024	From 10 Dec 2024
Not filing or not answering (company)	Court fine up to ₹5,000	Penalty up to ₹1,00,000
Continuing default (company)	Further fine up to ₹5,000 per day, after conviction	Further penalty up to ₹5,000 per day
Not filing or not answering (individual)	Court fine up to ₹1,000	Penalty up to ₹1,000, as reported by commentators
Who decides	Magistrate, on a complaint	Adjudicating officer, after a hearing

Paying does not end the duty. The penalty does not replace the return. Even after a penalty, the company must still file, and the daily penalty keeps adding up until it does.

Need more time? Ask in writing. The notice itself says that if you cannot file within one month, you should write to the statistics officer explaining why and ask for an extension, to avoid legal consequences.

Other contraventions, and how a penalty is imposed

The amended section 15 is headed "penalty for neglect or refusal to supply particulars **and other contraventions**". Besides not filing, the Act has always treated these as wrongs :

- **Wilfully false or misleading statements**, or leaving out material facts, in a return or an answer. MoSPI's own ASISSE guide warns that this is an offence, and that NSO can cross-check your figures against your books.
- **Destroying or defacing** a form or document used for the survey.
- **Obstructing** a statistics officer or survey staff doing their work.
- **Deceiving** or trying to deceive a statistics officer, or breaking any other requirement of the Act or Rules

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The continuing penalty of up to ₹5,000 a day applies to these other contraventions too, as the Ministry's summary of the amendment puts it. Before 2024, most of these carried up to six months' simple imprisonment; the Jan Vishwas Act's aim was to replace such criminal sanctions with money penalties.

How a penalty is imposed (Rules 15 to 15B). No penalty can be imposed without notice and a hearing. The steps are:

1. **Show-cause notice.** The statistics officer makes inquiries and sends a written notice asking why penalty proceedings should not start, with a reasonable time to reply.
2. **Reference to the adjudicating officer.** After considering your reply, and recording reasons, the statistics officer sends the case to the adjudicating officer appointed under section 15A.
3. **Hearing.** The adjudicating officer gives at least 15 days' notice of the hearing, by post and e-mail, with the case papers. You may attend in person, by video or through an authorised representative, and file written submissions. The officer can take evidence on oath and summon witnesses.
4. **Order.** The officer passes a reasoned order. It must allow at least 30 days to pay, name the appellate authority and state the appeal deadline.
5. **Appeal (section 15B).** You may appeal to the appellate authority in Form III within 30 days of receiving the order; a late appeal can be admitted for sufficient cause. While the appeal is pending, the penalty order is kept in abeyance. The appeal must be decided within 60 days.
6. **Recovery.** A penalty that is not paid can be recovered as an arrear of land revenue under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890.

Your data is protected, and what to do now

The Act gives informants strong confidentiality protection, so there is little risk in answering fully and honestly.

- **Statistical use only (section 9).** Only people doing the survey work may see your return. Nothing can be published in a way that identifies your company, even indirectly, unless you consent.
- **Not evidence elsewhere (section 14).** Information collected under the Act cannot be disclosed or used as evidence in any other proceedings, except as the Act allows. Survey staff cannot be forced to testify about it.
- **Staff are bound too.** Everyone engaged in the survey signs an undertaking (Form I) not to misuse personal information

EVENT SNAPS



One Day CPE Seminar on TAX AUDIT | 11 Sep2026



Past Chairmen Meet | 22 Sep2026

EVENT SNAPS



Career Counseling for St Thomas & Christ Nagar School Students | 16 & 17 Sep2026



MSME Programme | 05 Sep2026

HELPDESK @ INCOME TAX



CA. Keerthi M Nair



CA. Gopu Saran



CA . Syam Mohan

WISHES TO

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

2 Oct	Gautham Sreekumar
2 Oct	Shamerce Philip
3 Oct	Joy Isaac T
5 Oct	Kumar A
7 Oct	Ajith Sam
9 Oct	Hari Narayanan
9 Oct	Jacob Joseph
9 Oct	Unnikrishnan M
10 Oct	Thomaskutty P C
12 Oct	Hemachandran Nair R
14 Oct	Gowri S Nair
14 Oct	Susan Varghese
16 Oct	Roopesh R
20 Oct	Manoj S G
21 Oct	Rajeev R
21 Oct	Ranjith C
22 Oct	Minna Anna Mathew
22 Oct	Veena Sankar
22 Oct	R Varahamoorthy
24 Oct	Suresh K
24 Oct	Bhaviga B V
25 Oct	Tony Joseph
26 Oct	Lakshmi N V
28 Oct	Damodaran Namboothiri K
29 Oct	Shradha Vijayan
30 Oct	Suku Abraham Jacob
30 Oct	S M Anil Das
31 Oct	Arya Nandakumar

Happy
Birthday





The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

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 icaitym@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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