



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

ICAI SkillsX

National Debate & Oratory Competition for the Members of ICAI



**Organized by the
Professional Skills Enrichment Committee (PSEC), ICAI**

Professional Skills Enrichment Committee (PSEC), ICAI at a Glance

The Professional Skills Enrichment Committee (PSEC) of ICAI is dedicated to enriching the skills of the Members of ICAI to excel in today's dynamic professional environment. PSEC equips members of ICAI with the skills, fosters learning, and strengthens their ability to succeed in a competitive professional environment. Through a diverse range of Initiatives & programmes, PSEC provides platforms for learning, skill development, and networking.

Terms of Reference

01 Bridging the Skills Gap

Assess and address the evolving skill needs of Chartered Accountants to enhance their competence and visibility. Focus areas include branding, communication, critical thinking, design thinking, emotional intelligence, entrepreneurship, leadership, negotiation, networking, problem-solving, public speaking, time management, work ethics, emerging professional, technological skills & other skills.

02 Expert-Led Development

Engage top-tier Professional and faculty to deliver high-quality skill enrichment programs.

03 Building Future Trainers

Conduct Faculty Development Programs to empower Chartered Accountants to serve as expert trainers and resource persons.

04 Dynamic Learning Platforms

Organize impactful learning experiences, including webinars, workshops, conferences, brainstorming sessions, mentorship programs, and masterclasses on diverse professional topics and imbibe attitudes and values among the Professional.

05 Tech-Driven Skill Enhancement

Leverage IT-enabled platforms such as web portals, social media, AI tools, and digital communication channels to drive continuous professional growth.

06 Training & Assessment for Excellence

Offer structured training, assessments, and feedback mechanisms to ensure Chartered Accountants receive ongoing support, resources, and mentorship for skill advancement.

07 Expanding Professional Horizons

Provide access to cutting-edge products, services, and professional development courses, including refresher, certification, and post-qualification courses/programs.

08 Strategic Collaborations

Partner with prestigious institutions like IIMs, IITs, NITs, universities, management institutes, and government bodies to create unparalleled learning opportunities.

09 Knowledge Hub & Publications

Develop and release insightful publications on contemporary and technical subjects in both print and digital formats.

10 Nationwide Skills Enrichment Drive

A countrywide professional development initiative on World Youth Skills Day (July 15), Skills Enrichment Month & Any other Skills Enrichment Drive offering targeted programs to elevate the expertise of Chartered Accountants.

11 Others

Carry out the other activities pertaining/ relating to the Professional Skill Enrichment of the Chartered Accountants, and any other endeavor assigned by the Competent Authority from time to time.

Professional Skills Enrichment Committee (PSEC), ICAI

Under the Leadership of:



CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda
President, ICAI



CA. Prasanna Kumar D
Vice - President, ICAI



CA. Jay Chhaira
Chairman - PSEC, ICAI



CA. Abhay Chhajed
Vice Chairman - PSEC, ICAI

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our esteemed members for their unwavering support, active participation, and dedication to our initiatives. Your enthusiasm and commitment have been instrumental in the success of our Committee. Together, we have created a dynamic learning environment that empowers individuals and strengthens our community. We deeply appreciate your contributions and look forward to your continued engagement in our future endeavours.

Introduction

In the rapidly evolving professional landscape, Chartered Accountants must possess not only strong technical expertise but also exceptional communication, analytical, and leadership capabilities. To foster these future-ready competencies, the Professional Skills Enrichment Committee (PSEC) of ICAI proposes ICAI SkillsX – Debate & Oratory Competition, a multi-tier national initiative designed to enrich, showcase, and celebrate the soft skills and professional acumen of ICAI members.

This competition aims to create a dynamic platform where CA professionals articulate ideas, engage in intellectual discourse, build persuasive communication, and demonstrate thought leadership on contemporary themes of skill enhancement and professional development.

The ICAI SkillsX Debate & Oratory Competition will formally commence in the month of December 2025, beginning with the Branch-level rounds across the country."

Objectives

- I. Enhance key professional skills such as communication, critical thinking, leadership, and strategic articulation.
- II. Promote healthy intellectual exchange among members across Branches, Regions, and the National level.
- III. Encourage members to express insights into emerging skills essential for success in the evolving business ecosystem.
- IV. Recognize and reward excellence in oratory, persuasion, and structured analytical debate.
- V. Strengthen cross-branch engagement and foster a community of continuous learning.

Structure & Format of the Competition

A. Multi-Level Format

I. Branch/City Level Competition

At the first level the debate competition will be conducted in different cities across India through the branches of the ICAI. These branches will conduct the first level i.e. city level debate competition. Formal request letters/E-mail to the Members of ICAI seeking their participation in the said competition will be sent by the Branch Chairman/Chairperson concerned. Members of the ICAI are requested to confirm their participation by sending their nomination to the Branch Concerned. The competition shall be held in the city on the date and at the venue indicated in the letter/e-mail sent by the Chairman/Chairperson of the Branch Concerned. Based on the performance of the Members of ICAI as judged by the panel of judges, a Trophy will be given to the winner and certificates of appreciation to two runners-up. Each Branch including sub-city (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata & Kanpur have been divided into sub city for this purpose) where regional office is situated shall select one winner to participate in the Regional Level Competition.

(Note: Runners-up of each city will not be eligible to participate in the regional level contest).

II. Regional Level Competition

The second level debate competition will be at regional level. The winner of each city and sub city at the first level of the competition will be eligible to take part in the regional level competition. There will in all be five regions i.e. western, southern, eastern, central and northern. One winner from each city and four sub-city winners from Chennai, Delhi, Kolkatta, Mumbai & Kolkata will be contesting at the region level competition. The Regional level competition shall be held in Mumbai, Chennai, Kanpur, Kolkata & Delhi. The venue can be changed in case it is considered desirable to hold the contest at any other city. The

competition will be conducted by the respective regional councils of the Institute. The date and venue will be intimated to each of the eligible participant and cost of travel etc. will be reimbursed by the Regional Council. The winner of the Regional level competition shall be awarded a Trophy and 1st Runners-up will also be awarded with a Trophy & certificate of merit will be given to the 2nd Runner up. These Winner & 1st Runner up of the said competition will be eligible to participate at the All-India level competition.

III. All India Competition

One winner and 1st Runners-up from each Region will be participating at the All India level competition. The All India level competition shall be conducted at such a place on a date and venue as may be decided by the Professional Skills Enrichment Committee of the ICAI. A Trophy and Certificates will be awarded to the winner, first runner-up and the second runner-up of the competition. Wide publicity will be given to the competition and the winners will be selected by a panel of judges comprising eminent persons. The competition at the Regional level and the All India level will be compered by an eminent TV/Media personality. Efforts will be made to have the debate competition covered on electronic media.

B. Competition Category

- Debate Competition (Structured, For/Against format)
- Oratory Competition (Individual speech delivery on a chosen topic)

Note: Branches/ Regional Councils may choose either format or a mix, based on participation strength.

C. Duration & Rules

- Total Time per Participant:** 10 minutes
 - **Debate:** 5 minutes main argument + 3 minutes counterargument + 2 minutes conclusion
 - **Oratory:** Full 10-minute speech
- Language:** Medium of Debate can be either English or Hindi
- Evaluation Criteria:** The debate will be evaluated by a panel of judges on the basis of criteria given below:

Basis of Criteria	Marks
Content Relevance and Depth	40marks
Persuasiveness and Clarity	10marks
Logical structuring	10marks
Confidence, Voice Modulation, Body Language	10marks
Language: Lucidity & Precision	10marks
Creativity & Originality	10marks
Adhering to the time schedule	10marks
Total	100 Marks

D. Eligibility of Judges of the ICAI SkillsX

I. Qualification

The judges shall be experienced members of the ICAI with strong professional standing and proven communication or public-speaking skills.

II. Experience

Preferably, judges should have a minimum of 5 years of post-qualification experience or significant exposure to public speaking, training, mentoring, or academic activities.

III. Impartiality

Judges must not have any direct relationship (professional, personal, or supervisory) with the participating Members of ICAI to ensure fairness and neutrality.

IV. Professional Reputation

Judges should have a clean professional record with no disciplinary proceedings pending before the ICAI.

V. Representation

The panel may ideally include:

- One senior Chartered Accountant with experience in communication or leadership development
- One academician/mentor/trainer with expertise in public speaking
- One senior member from the profession or industry with strong evaluative skills

VI. Conflict of Interest Declaration

All judges must declare that no conflict of interest exists with any participant.

VII. Upholding ICAI Standards

Judges are expected to maintain confidentiality, uphold ICAI ethics, and ensure fair assessment as per the defined marking criteria.

Themes & Topics (Skills Enrichment Focus)

Participants will speak/debate on topics related to professional skills, soft skills, future skills, and emerging competencies including but not limited to:

Indicative Topic List

- I. **Communication Excellence:** The Real Power Skill for CAs
- II. Is Emotional Intelligence More Important than IQ in Today's Workplace?
- III. **Leadership in the Age of AI:** Human Skills vs. Machine Efficiency
- IV. **Personal Branding for CAs:** Need or Noise?
- V. **Critical Thinking:** The Most Underrated Skill in Professional Decision-Making
- VI. **Negotiation Mastery:** A Key Driver of Professional Success
- VII. **Design Thinking Mindset:** Should Every CA Learn It?
- VIII. Time Management in an Over-Connected World – Mission Possible?
- IX. **Interpersonal Skills vs. Technical Skills:** What Determines Career Growth?
- X. **The Future CA:** A Multi-Skilled Professional or a Deep Specialist?

Note: Branches/ Regional Councils may add more topics under the broad theme of Skill Enrichment & Future-Ready Capabilities.



1. Expected Outcomes

- Improved articulation, presentation, and persuasion abilities among members.
- Increased awareness of skill-based professional development.
- Stronger engagement within ICAI's member community.
- Creation of a national platform to identify and nurture exceptional communicators and thought leaders.
- Enhanced confidence, stage presence, and analytical expression of participants.

2. Eligibility

- Open to all ICAI Members (ACA/FCA)
- Participants must compete through their Branch; direct Regional/National entries are not permitted.

3. Financial Assistance for Travelling and Stay

- I. City level winners travelling to Regional Offices of Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur, Kolkata and Mumbai for participating in the Regional level competition will be reimbursed up to Rs 10,000/-
- II. Regional level winners travelling to participate in the All-India level competition will be reimbursed up to Rs 25,000/-

4. Accommodation

Members of ICAI have to make their own arrangements for their stay at places where the competition will be held. Wherever possible, the office may assist in arranging reasonable accommodation for the Participants at economical rates.

5. Awards & Recognition

- I. **Branch Level:** Trophy for Winner, Certificates of Merit for 1st & 2nd Runner up & participation certificate to all
- II. **Regional Level:** Trophies to Winner & 1st Runner up, Certificate of Merit to 2nd Runner up & participation certificate to all
- III. **National Level**
 - ❖ ICAI SkillsX National Champion Trophy
 - ❖ Participation Certificate to all
 - ❖ ICAI SkillsX Ruunerup Trophy
 - ❖ Recognition in PSEC communication/social media
 - ❖ Certificate of Excellence
 - ❖ Opportunity to participate in future PSEC skill-based initiatives



6. Branding & Promotion

- Unified branding under "ICAI SkillsX – National Debate & Oratory Championship"
- Posters, emailers, and social media creatives shared with all Branches and Regions
- Coverage on ICAI platforms, newsletters, and PSEC updates

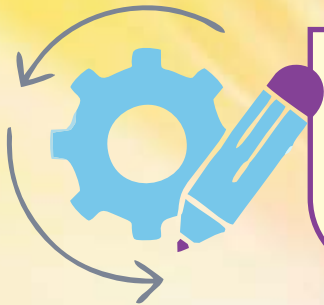
7. Correspondence

A. Correspondence for Branch/ City level be done with:

All correspondence for city level competition should be done with the respective branches of the ICAI. The address and contact number of the branch will be given on the letter issued by the Branch Concerned.

B. Correspondence for Regional level and All India level be done with:

Professional Skills Enrichment Committee, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India(ICAI), ICAI Bhawan, First Floor, Administrative Block, A-29, Sector-62, Noida, Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), P.C.-201309, Email: psec@icai.in; Telephone: 0120-3045994; Mobile: 9625331216/7840059113



Modifications

The scheme can be modified, altered or abandoned at any time. All decision about the scheme shall be at the sole discretion of Board of Studies and binding on all. Nobody shall have any right or claim whatsoever against the Professional Skills Enrichment Committee, ICAI.

Dates for the Different Levels of Competition

- I. Branch/City Level Competition: 25th December, 2025 to 12th January, 2026
- II. Regional Level Competition: 22nd January, 2026 to 27th January, 2026
- III. All India Level Competition: 7th February, 2026 at Mumbai



Takeaway

ICAI SkillsX represents ICAI's commitment to empowering members beyond technical qualifications by equipping them with essential modern-day competencies. This initiative will foster a culture of articulate, confident, and skilled CA professionals who can influence, inspire, and lead in the ever-changing global environment.

In case of any difficulty, you may contact coordinator of the program

Dr. Sambit Kumar Mishra, **Secretary, Professional Skills Enrichment Committee,**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India(ICAI)

ICAI Bhawan, First Floor, Administrative Block, A-29, Sector-62, Noida,

Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.), P.C.-201309,

Email: sambit.mishra@icai.in; Telephone: 0120-3045910

Action Plan of the Professional Skills Enrichment Committee, ICAI for the Council Year 2025-26

World Youth Skills Day

Celebration to Commemorate World Youth Skills Day on July 15, 2025, with impactful programs across all ICAI Branches and Regional Councils.

Skill Enrichment Month

Dedicate November 2025 to professional growth with specialized skill enhancement activities across ICAI's network.

Mastering Public Speaking

Organize 3 CPE-hour Public Speaking Programs to refine communication skills and boost confidence.

Orientation for Newly Qualified CAs

Conduct online and physical orientation sessions to equip fresh Chartered Accountants with essential professional skills.

ICAI Skill Enrichment Expedition

Launch a nationwide skill development drive across ICAI Branches, fostering continuous learning and upskilling.

Collaborative Skills Enrichment Programmes

To arrange the collaborative programmes with IIMs, IITs, NITs, universities, management institutes, and government bodies Facilitate knowledge-sharing endeavours to enrich professional expertise among Chartered Accountants.

Skill Assessment & Roadmap

Conduct surveys and assessment tests to identify skill gaps and shape future enrichment initiatives.

Immersive Learning Experiences

Host a series of workshops, summits, conferences, seminars, brainstorming sessions, mentorship programs,, refresher courses & other programmes to enhance expertise in key professional domains.

Expanding Knowledge Horizons

Develop innovative strategies to strengthen the knowledge portfolio of Chartered Accountants for efficient career management.

Tech-Driven Learning Solutions

Implement IT-enabled platforms and digital tools to support skill enrichment initiatives.

Comprehensive Learning Resources

Provide high-quality knowledge content in print and digital formats, ensuring seamless access to professional insights.

Stakeholder Engagement & Networking

Foster collaborations and interactions with key stakeholders to align skill enrichment efforts with industry needs.

Strategic Skill Development Framework

Devise focused initiatives to drive professional excellence and continuous skill enhancement.

Periodical MCQ based Questionnaire & Psychometric Tests

Organizing Periodical MCQ based Questionnaire (Vocabulary& Grammer) for participating by the Members & Best Performer shall be awarded Weekly by Memento/ Gift & Also organising Psychometric Tests on Various Skills.

TV/Podcast series

Organizing TV/Podcast series on Skills Enrichment for the Members of ICAI

Professional Skills Enrichment Committee(PSEC) for the Council Year 2025-26

CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda, President, ICAI (Ex-officio)
CA. Prasanna Kumar D, Vice-President, ICAI (Ex-officio)
CA. Jay Chhaira, Chairman, PSEC, ICAI
CA. Abhay Chhajed, Vice Chairman, PSEC, ICAI

Members

CA. Durgesh Kumar Kabra	CA. Sanjib Sanghi
CA. Mangesh Pandurang Kinare	CA. (Dr.) Anuj Goyal
CA. Purushottamlal Khandelwal	CA. Satish Kumar Gupta
CA. Priti Paras Savla	CA. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
CA. Umesh Ramnarayan Sharma	CA. (Dr.) Sanjeev Kumar Singhal
CA. Madhukar Narayan Hiregange	Shri Sanjay Sharan,
CA. Sridhar Muppala	Indian Postal Service Group A (1989),
CA. Sripriya Kumar	Government Nominee

Co-opted Members

CA. Jaswinder Singh	CA. Charmi Atul Shah
CA. Raju Ramjilalji Sharma	CA. Anil Kumar Agrawal

Secretary, PSEC, ICAI:

Dr. Sambit Kumar Mishra

Please Connect with us at-

E-mail: sambit.mishra@icai.in, psec@icai.in; Telephone: 0120-3045994



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