

**Address by Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri K. Kailashnathan at the
Sub-Regional Conference 2025 of SIRC of the
Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).**

Place : Sunway Manor, Puducherry.

Date : 28 June 2025

Respected Chairperson of SIRC of ICAI, Ms. Revathi Raghunathan, Guest of Honour Mr. K. P. Narayanan, Chairman of the Puducherry Branch, Mr. Kushal Raj, esteemed members, learned professionals and delegates, Vanakkam.

It is an honour to be here with you today at this momentous occasion - the Sub Regional Conference 2025, hosted by the Puducherry Branch of the Southern India Regional Council of ICAI. This congregation is an embodiment of the very theme of this conference : *"Listen to the wise, let the mind shine."*

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organisers for conceptualizing such an inspiring and timely theme. This theme carries a profound depth. It encourages us to embrace wisdom in all its forms and to allow our minds to illuminate not only our careers but our larger contribution to society.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) with a rich legacy of over 75 years, has consistently been a custodian of excellence, integrity and professional ethics. It is a matter of great pride that this institution is not merely producing accounting professionals, but financial leaders, advisors and national builders.

Chartered Accountants, by virtue of their training, ethics and accountability, become a partner in the process of nation building. As our former President of India, late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, rightly said, *"Chartered Accountants are the backbone of economic growth and accountability."* This is not merely a compliment. It is a responsibility.

Chartered Accountants are the sentinels who ensure that economic policies are understood, implemented and improved upon. You act as custodians of public trust, advising not only corporate clients but also helping the Government Administration in streamlining tax collection, enhancing compliance and curbing financial irregularities.

While Puducherry is a Union Territory, it is also a region of enormous potential. With our rich heritage, diverse culture and intellectual depth, Puducherry has the foundation to emerge as a model region for sustainable development.

As professionals based in or connected to this region, your role is even more crucial. Whether it's MSME upliftment, assisting in transparent governance, or improving digital compliance, Chartered Accountants in Puducherry must act as economic enablers and trusted advisors.

This Government values such engagements and sees you as key contributors to build Puducherry's image as a business-friendly region and to develop Puducherry in all aspects as – the **'BEST Puducherry'** as determined by our visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Today, the financial landscape is undergoing a paradigm shift. Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, block chain, and legal automation are no longer future concepts—they are the present.

For Chartered Accountants, this is not a threat - it is an opportunity. Embracing these technologies will allow you to move beyond routine audits and tax filings, and rise to the level of strategic advisors and innovation leaders.

I am glad to note that the conference covers pressing subjects like:

- Obligations and privileges of private limited companies,
- Changes in financial statements for non-corporate entities,
- Artificial Intelligence in accounting, and
- Handling GST notices and appeals.

These are not just technical matters - they reflect your adaptability and relevance in a global, digital economy.

Events like this are more than academic exchanges—they are opportunities to reflect, refine, and reimagine. They foster dialogue, encourage peer learning, and more importantly, they build a shared vision for the profession's future.

I congratulate the Puducherry Branch Managing Committee, for meticulously curating this program. Let this conference ignite ideas, build collaborations, and inspire each of you to stretch beyond boundaries.

As Administrator of this Union Territory, let me place on record a simple but sincere message: We look to Chartered Accountants for guidance, for clarity in policy implementation and for innovation in Governance. Whether it is facilitating GST, promoting start-up culture or simplifying audits for small businesses - you are critical partners in the journey. We expect from you not just technical proficiency, but a steadfast commitment to ethics, transparency, and social responsibility.

As you step into this enriching day of learning and exchange, I urge you to think big, not just for your firm or your practice, but for the profession, the society, and the nation.

Once again, I convey my appreciation to the organisers, speakers and participants. I hope that this Sub Regional Conference will be a milestone in your professional journey and will help illuminate the future of our economy.

May your minds shine, as you continue to listen to the wise.

Thank you... Jai Hind...