E – VIDYARTHI

The Official Student Bulletin of WIRC of ICMAI | January 2026

Theme:

CMA@Campus Building Future-Ready Professionals

Learn. Lead. Level Up

WESTERN INDIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
(Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament)

Follow us on:

"Behind every successful Business Decision, there is always a CMA"

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Vision Statement

"The Institute of Cost Accountants of India would be the preferred source of resources and professionals for the financial leadership of enterprises globally."

Mission Statement

"The Cost and Management Accountant professionals would ethically drive enterprises globally by creating value to stakeholders in the socio-economic context through competencies drawn from the integration of strategy, management and accounting."

From the Desk of Chairman

CMA Mihir Narayan Vyas

Chairman ICMAI -WIRC

Dear Students,

Warm New Year Greetings and Best Wishes for 2026!
As we step into a new year filled with possibilities, I extend my heartfelt wishes to each one of you for a purposeful, progressive, and professionally enriching 2026. A new year is not merely a change of calendar - it is an opportunity to Reset goals, Renew determination, and Realign efforts toward excellence.

As Chairman of ICMAI–WIRC, my vision for 2026 is deeply centered on student empowerment, capability building, and leadership development. The CMA qualification is evolving rapidly in response to global economic, technological, and sustainability challenges. Our students must therefore be professionally competent, ethically grounded, digitally agile, and socially responsible. WIRC will continue to focus on initiatives that transform **CMA Students from learners into leaders.**

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Students Coordination Committee and CMA Vidyarthi, during which the platform has scaled new heights in engagement, quality, and student participation. I am pleased to share that the Council has now entrusted this responsibility to CMA Nanty Shah, Vice Chairman, ICMAI-WIRC. I am confident that under his leadership, CMA Vidyarthi will reach even greater heights and create higher value for students across the region.

Firstly I extend my heartiest congratulations to all students who have successfully cleared the Foundation Examination – December 2025 term. This milestone marks the beginning of your professional CMA journey. To those who could not succeed this time—remember, success is built on perseverance. Every attempt strengthens your foundation; stay focused, disciplined, and confident. Your efforts will surely bear fruit.

I am delighted to announce that ICMAI–WIRC is organizing the **Students' Regional Cost Convention (SRCC) 2026** on 17th & 18th March 2026 at Surat - India's cleanest city and a vibrant hub of entrepreneurship and innovation—provides the perfect backdrop for student leadership and creativity. The theme of SRCC 2026 is **"सक्षम – Empowered Future CMAs for an Empowered India."** This theme reflects our collective responsibility to develop CMAs who are skilled, confident, and future-ready—capable of contributing meaningfully to nation-building. The convention will provide dynamic platform for learning sessions, competitions, networking opportunities, and exposure to diverse perspectives. I strongly urge students to participate in large numbers and make SRCC 2026 a grand success.

Also the Students' Coordination Committee of ICMAI–WIRC proudly announces two exciting initiatives:
CMA Academic Research Hackathon – fostering research orientation, analytical thinking, and academic excellence.
Concept in 100 Seconds – a dynamic video contest encouraging students to creatively explain any CMA concept within 100 seconds.
I encourage every student to actively participate, showcase talent, and sharpen professional skills beyond textbooks.

As we move into 2026, remember that success is not achieved overnight - it is built daily through small, consistent actions. Embrace challenges, learn from failures, and never underestimate your potential. **The CMA profession needs leaders, thinkers, and change-makers—and that future is you**

As we celebrate the vibrant festivals of January, I extend warm wishes on Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Lohri, and Uttarayan. May this season bring positivity, progress, and new aspirations into your lives.

With best wishes for a successful and empowered year ahead.

With warm regards,
CMA Mihir Narayan Vyas
Chairman
Western India Regional Council of
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Written by,

CMA Nanty Nalinkumar Shah

Vice Chairman ICMAI - WIRC &
Chairman, Editoral Board - WIRC Bulletin

Dear Students,

Warm New Year greetings to each one of you!

As we step into 2026 with renewed energy, ambition, and purpose, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a year filled with learning, growth, resilience, and success.

It gives me immense pride and pleasure to connect with you through this January 2026 edition of CMA Vidyarthi, my first Communiqué as the Chairman – Students Coordination Committee, ICMAI–WIRC. I am deeply honoured to serve our vibrant student fraternity and look forward to working collectively towards nurturing competent, ethical, and future-ready Cost & Management Accountants (CMAs).

“Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.” – Swami Vivekananda
This powerful thought perfectly resonates with the spirit of every CMA student -driven, disciplined, and determined to create impact.

CMA Vidyarthi is not just a publication, **it is a platform by the students, for the students, and of the students. It reflects your ideas, aspirations, achievements, and vision for the profession.** This January edition is a knowledge-packed issue, enriched with conceptual articles, insights, and inspiring success stories of recently qualified CMAs, motivating you to stay focused on your journey.

This edition theme **“CMA@Campus – Building Future-Ready Professionals”** underscores the need for CMAs to be industry-relevant, technologically aware, ethically strong, and leadership-oriented right from the campus stage. As future professionals, your preparation today will define the profession’s stature tomorrow.

In 2026, our collective focus will be on:

- Strengthening student engagement and participation.
- Encouraging research, innovation, and thought leadership.
- Creating platforms for skill enhancement, expression, and visibility.
- Making students active contributors to the CMA profession and nation building.

CMA Vidyarthi will continue to be the strong voice of students, amplifying your perspectives across the CMA fraternity.

Heartiest congratulations to all students who have successfully cleared the CMA Foundation – December 2025 examination. Your hard work has paid off—this is the first strong step towards a prestigious professional career. To those who could not clear this attempt—remember, failure is only a temporary pause, not the end. Learn from the experience, strengthen your preparation, and move forward with confidence and consistency. The profession awaits you. I also urge all Foundation passed students to take admission for the Intermediate Course. The last date for admission for June 2026 term is 31st January 2026.

It gives me immense pleasure to announce that, ICMAI WIRC organised and ICMAI-Surat South Gujarat Chapter host the **Students Regional Cost Convention 2026,** scheduled on 17th & 18th March 2026 at Surat. The theme of convention is “सक्षम – Empowered Future CMAs for an Empowered India”. SRCC is a flagship students’ event offering learning, networking, competition, and inspiration. I encourage our vibrant student community to participate wholeheartedly and make SRCC 2026 a grand success.

CMA Academic Research Hackathon brochure link: https://icmai-wirc.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Academic-Research-Hackathon.pdf
#ConceptIn100Seconds – Video Contest participation Link: https://icmai-wirc.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Conceptin100seconds.pdf

My sincere thanks to all students who have contributed to this edition of CMA Vidyarthi. Your efforts, thoughts, and creativity make this publication meaningful and impactful. Further we have released the CMA Vidyarthi April & July 2026 themes well in advance to encourage wider participation. I urge all students to contribute articles, ideas, and thought pieces in large numbers and share your vision with the CMA fraternity.

Theme are as follows:
April 2026: CMA India @2047 – My Vision for the Profession
July 2026: GST @8 & India @100 – The Young CMA's Role in Nation Building

Let us make 2026 a year of learning with purpose, leading with integrity, and leveling up with confidence. Together, we can build a strong, future-ready CMA community that contributes not only to the profession but also to the nation.

Wishing you success in all your endeavours.

With warm regards,
CMA Nanty Nalinkumar Shah
Chief Editor – WIRC Bulletin
Vice Chairman &
Chairman Students Coordination Committee
ICMAI-WIRC

ICMAI
THE INSTITUTE OF
COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
भारतीय लागत लेखाकार संस्थान
Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)
WESTERN INDIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

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WESTERN INDIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

WESTERN INDIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

is pleased to announce

STUDENTS REGIONAL COST CONVENTION - 2026

Theme:

Empowered Future CMAs for an Empowered India

सक्षम

Dates:
17 & 18 March 2026,
(Tuesday & Wednesday)

Email ID:
surat@icmai.in

Venue:
Surat International Exhibition Convention Centre (SIECC)
"Platinum Hall", Althan Road, Surat – 395 017.

STUDENTS DELEGATE FEE: Rs.600/-

HOSTED BY: ICMAI SURAT SOUTH GUJARAT CHAPTER

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"Behind every successful Business Decision, there is always a *CMA*"

CMA@CAMPUS – BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS: LEARN. LEAD. LEVEL UP.

Stage: CMA Intermediate
Aryashi Mahesh Churi
Registration No : 01242075191

As a CMA Intermediate student, I often remind myself that this journey is not just about clearing exams—it's about transforming into the kind of professional the future demands. When I look around at my fellow students, I see the same determination in their eyes: the dream of becoming capable, confident, and responsible financial leaders. And to me, that is exactly what CMA@Campus represents—a place where learning shapes identity, discipline builds character, and challenges turn into opportunities.

Where Learning Becomes a Habit

One of the most important things I've learned as a CMA student is that learning is not an event; it's a lifestyle. Every subject—whether it's Cost Accounting, FM & BDA, Taxation, or MA—makes us think deeper than what's written on the page. We don't just memorize; we analyze, connect, and apply.

When I solve a cost sheet or understand a tax provision, I realize the relevance of every calculation. These are the tools that companies use every day, and we are learning them at the student level itself. This ability to apply knowledge directly to real scenarios is what makes CMA education future-focused.

The Campus Environment: Silent But Powerful

A CMA campus doesn't always have classrooms full of noise or big auditoriums. Sometimes, it is just a group of students revising together, sharing notes, discussing doubts, or motivating each other. Yet the learning that happens here is powerful.

We grow through:

- Guidance from faculty
- Friendly competition among peers
- Study groups that push us
- Events and seminars that broaden our perspective

This environment silently teaches us values like discipline, teamwork, consistency, and professionalism—qualities that matter as much as technical knowledge.

Leadership Begins with Small Choices

The theme "Learn. Lead. Level Up." has a deeper meaning for me. Leadership is not always standing on a stage; sometimes it is waking up every morning and studying when no one is watching. It is managing time, balancing subjects, and still staying mentally strong.

Every time we choose to keep going, even on difficult days, we are building leadership within ourselves.

We also learn to lead through:

- Helping juniors
- Participating in events
- Organizing group studies
- Sharing knowledge

These small actions develop confidence, communication skills, and the ability to guide others—skills that the industry values highly.

Growing Into Future-Ready Professionals

The corporate world is evolving—data analytics, automation, global taxation, and strategic decision-making are becoming core skills. The CMA course prepares us exactly for this.

It teaches us to:

- Analyze information, not just record it
- Think strategically, not just numerically
- Make decisions, not just calculations
- Stay ethical in a world full of shortcuts

We learn the mindset of a professional who can add value anywhere—manufacturing, consulting, finance, analytics, taxation, or even entrepreneurship.

In many ways, the CMA course prepares us not only for a job but for a role in shaping the future of business.

Level Up: The Journey Continues

The most beautiful thing about being a CMA student is the understanding that success is built step by step. Every chapter completed, every mistake corrected, and every mock test attempted levels us up.
For me, the CMA journey has been a mirror—I've seen my weaknesses, discovered my strengths, and learned to trust my own potential. It has taught me that growth is slow but meaningful, and that every challenge is a stepping stone to becoming a future-ready professional.

Conclusion

CMA@Campus – Building Future-Ready Professionals is not just a theme—it is the lived experience of every student. It reflects our journey of learning with curiosity, leading with courage, and levelling up with consistency.

As students, we are not just preparing for exams; we are preparing to contribute to India's growth, support industries, and uphold the values of our profession. With every step on this journey, we are becoming exactly what the world needs: future-ready CMA professionals who can learn, lead, and level up.

CMA@CAMPUS - BUILDING FUTURE - READY PROFESSIONALS
LEARN.LEAD.LEVEL UP

Stage: CMA Foundation

Pratiksha Subhash Shelar

Registration No: WF2025063035

In today's fast-changing business environment, professional education plays a vital role in shaping students into competent d confident individuals. The CMA course offered by The Institute of Cost Accountants of India helps students transform into future-ready professionals by combining academic learning with practical exposure right from the campus stage.

CMA education focuses not only on theoretical knowledge but also on developing analytical and strategic thinking. On campus, CMA students are trained to understand cost management, financial planning, decision-making, and business ethics. This early exposure prepares students to face real-world corporate challenges with confidence. The structured curriculum and regular evaluations help students build discipline and a strong professional mindset.

One of the most important aspects of CMA@Campus is skill development. CMA students learn how to analyze financial data, manage costs efficiently, and contribute to organizational growth. Along with technical skills, the course also nurtures leadership qualities, communication skills, and problem-solving abilities. These skills are essential for becoming effective leaders in the future.

CMA@Campus also encourages students to think beyond textbooks. Participation in seminars, workshops, student activities, and professional publications like E-Vidyarthi motivates students to express their ideas and improve their knowledge. Such opportunities help students gain confidence, enhance creativity, and stay updated with industry trends.

In conclusion, CMA@Campus plays a crucial role in building future-ready professionals who are prepared to learn continuously, lead with responsibility, and level up in their careers. With the right blend of knowledge, skills, and professional values, CMA students are well-equipped to contribute positively to the business world and the nation's economic growth.

CMA@CAMPUS - BUILDING FUTURE - READY PROFESSIONALS
LEARN.LEAD.LEVEL UP

Stage: CMA Foundation
Kirtan Choubisa
Registration No.: WF2025070368

In today's rapidly changing business environment, being a finance professional means more than clearing exams — it means being adaptable, skilled, and future-ready. CMA students stand at the center of this transformation. Through campus engagement, academic learning, and practical exposure, they are being shaped into professionals who can contribute meaningfully to organizations and society.

Learn – Strong Foundation Builds Strong Careers

The CMA curriculum provides a powerful blend of costing, taxation, finance, law, and management accounting. But learning extends beyond textbooks. Campus life teaches discipline, problem-solving, analytical thinking, and time management. Workshops, seminars, and practical sessions help students connect theory with real-world application, making learning more holistic and impactful.

Lead – Developing Confident and Responsible Professionals

CMA students are encouraged not only to participate but to take initiative. Through presentations, events, group tasks, and volunteer roles, they build leadership qualities like communication, decision-making, teamwork, and accountability. These attributes help them evolve into professionals capable of guiding teams and leading organizational growth.

Level Up – Growing Beyond the Classroom

To be future-ready, constant upskilling is essential. CMA students learn to stay updated with industry changes, adopt advanced technologies such as Excel, SAP, and analytics tools, and think innovatively to solve modern business challenges. Internships and practical training offer exposure to diverse industries, helping students level up their professional capabilities.

Conclusion

CMA@Campus is not just a part of the academic journey—it is a mindset. A mindset to learn continuously, lead confidently, and level up consistently. By embracing these principles, CMA students are preparing themselves to become the next generation of dynamic, ethical, and future-ready finance professionals.

Learn. Lead. Level Up.
This theme truly reflects the spirit and strength of every CMA student.

CMA@CAMPUS – BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS
LEARN. LEAD. LEVEL UP.

Stage: CMA Foundation
Shridhan Waghamare
Registration No :WF2025078259

The role of a Cost and Management Accountant (CMA) is rapidly evolving in today's dynamic business environment. CMA@Campus initiatives play a crucial role in shaping students into future-ready professionals by combining academic knowledge with practical exposure, leadership skills, and ethical values.

Campus life is the foundation stage where a CMA student begins the journey of professional transformation. Through structured education, case studies, presentations, and industry-oriented learning, students develop strong analytical and decision-making skills. The CMA curriculum equips students with expertise in cost management, financial analysis, taxation, strategic management, and corporate laws, which are essential for modern businesses.

The theme Learn. Lead. Level Up. perfectly reflects the CMA journey. Learning is continuous for a CMA student—beyond textbooks, it includes understanding real-world business challenges. Leadership is developed through teamwork, seminars, student activities, and professional interactions encouraged on campus. These experiences help students build confidence, communication skills, and a problem-solving mindset. To level up, CMA students must adapt to technology, data analytics, ERP systems, and evolving regulatory frameworks, making them valuable assets to organizations.

CMA@Campus initiatives also emphasize ethics, discipline, and professional responsibility. These values ensure that future CMAs not only contribute to business growth but also uphold trust and transparency in the financial system. With exposure to research, writing articles, and participating in professional forums, students gain a broader perspective of the profession.

In conclusion, CMA@Campus acts as a bridge between education and the professional world. By nurturing knowledge, leadership, and adaptability, it helps build future-ready CMAs who can support strategic decision-making and contribute meaningfully to nation building. Truly, behind every successful business decision, there is a CMA.

CMA@CAMPUS: BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS
LEARN. LEAD. LEVEL UP.

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Arshad Siddiq Taj

Registration No : 01232040908

In an era defined by rapid technological change, economic shifts, and evolving business landscapes, the need for agile, strategic, and ethically grounded professionals has never been greater. An initiative designed not just to impart knowledge, but to sculpt the next generation of finance and business leaders.

With the powerful mantra "Learn. Lead. Level Up.", this program transcends traditional academic boundaries to create future-ready professionals equipped to thrive in complexity and drive meaningful change.

Learn: Foundation of Expertise

True readiness begins with deep, applicable knowledge. Learn is about more than textbooks—it's about mastering competencies that matter in today's workplace:

Strategic Management Accounting: Moving beyond numbers to influence business strategy.
Data-Driven Decision Making: Leveraging analytics and digital tools for insights.
Risk Management & Governance: Understanding controls, compliance, and ethical frameworks.
Technology Integration: Exposure to ERP systems, automation, and emerging tech in finance.

We blend curriculum rigor with case-based learning, ensuring students don't just learn concepts—they apply them in real-world scenarios.

Lead: Cultivating Influence and Impact

Knowledge alone isn't enough. Future-ready professionals must inspire teams, advocate for ethical practices, and lead with vision. The students embrace the Lead pillar by developing:

Communication & Persuasion: Articulating financial insights to non-financial stakeholders.
Collaboration & Team Dynamics: Working across functions to solve business problems.
Ethical Leadership: Anchoring decisions in integrity and corporate responsibility.
Change Management: Leading through disruption and fostering innovation.

Through workshops, mentorship, and leadership labs, students build the soft skills and confidence needed to step into leadership roles early in their careers.

Level Up: Continuous Growth and Adaptation

The journey doesn't stop at graduation. Level Up embodies a mindset of continuous improvement and career agility.

Lifelong Learning: Staying current with industry trends, certifications, and skill upgrades.
Career Resilience: Navigating career shifts and seizing new opportunities.
Network Expansion: Connecting with professionals, alumni, and industry experts.
Personal Branding: Building a professional identity aligned with future goals.

We provide access to webinars, networking forums, and digital resources that support growth long after campus life ends.

Why CMA@Campus Stands Out

Unlike conventional academic programs, CMA@Campus integrates the globally recognized CMA (Certified Management Accountant) credential framework with experiential campus learning. This synergy ensures students gain both a respected qualification and the practical acumen to excel from day one.

Our partnerships with industries, internship placements, and simulation projects bridge the gap between theory and practice—making our graduates not just job-ready, but future-prepared.

Join the Movement

Whether you are a student aspiring to accelerate your career, an educator shaping future talent, or an organization seeking capable leaders, CMA@Campus offers a transformative pathway.

Learn with depth. Lead with purpose. Level Up for life.

Become a future-ready professional. Start your journey with CMA@Campus today.

CMA @ CAMPUS – BECOMING FUTURE-READY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Stage: CMA Final

Shravani Tulshidas Thorat

Registration No: 01212140034

Not every CMA student studies inside a traditional campus, and my journey is one of them. I am completing my course while managing work, responsibilities, and self-learning. I do not have classroom benches, campus memories, or fixed lecture hours. Yet, the spirit of "CMA @ Campus" is very much part of my life. Over time, I realised that a campus is not only a physical place. It is any environment where we grow, learn, adapt, and slowly build ourselves into future-ready professionals.

Learning: When Everyday Life Becomes a Classroom

My learning happened outside a regular campus. It came from early-morning studies, late-night preparations, and continuous practice during work hours. I understood concepts while handling real tasks, preparing reports, asking seniors for guidance, and improving every time I made mistakes.

Online classes, recorded lectures, and digital notes became my teachers. Discussions with friends, doubt sessions, and shared summaries replaced traditional group studies. This style of learning taught me that becoming future-ready does not depend on where you study, but on how consistently you study. When you take responsibility for your own learning, every day becomes a classroom.

Leadership: Taking Charge of Your Own Journey

Leadership for an off-campus student is different but equally powerful. With no fixed routine or campus structure, I had to become my own motivator. I learned how to manage work pressure with study deadlines and how to stay committed even when I felt tired or stressed. I supported my friends, shared notes, encouraged others before exams, and reached out to mentors whenever needed.

These small actions shaped my leadership attitude. Leadership is not about holding a title; it is about how you handle responsibility. When you study independently, you naturally learn discipline, planning, and decision-making — the qualities every CMA professional must have.

Levelling Up: Growing from Student to Professional

This journey helped me grow from a student mindset to a professional mindset. Step by step, I improved in:

Time management: balancing study hours with work deadlines

Communication: writing proper emails, reports, and presentations

Technical skills: using Excel, ERP systems, MIS reports, and costing tools

Professional ethics: understanding responsibility and accuracy

Adaptability: adjusting to new subjects, new challenges, and new work

These skills did not come from a classroom; they came from real-life situations. And these are exactly the qualities that make a CMA student future-ready.

Building a Network Without a Physical Campus

Even without college life, I built a strong network through WIRC seminars, workshops, online student groups, and interactions with colleagues. This network became my support system. We share updates, solve doubts, motivate each other during exam phases, and stay informed about industry changes. This type of networking is practical, helpful, and long-lasting. It shows that the CMA community itself becomes our campus.

Learn. Lead. Level Up — My CMA Journey

My CMA journey taught me that learning can happen anywhere, leadership can develop at any stage, and growth is continuous. The absence of a physical campus never limited my progress. Instead, it made me more responsible, more focused, and more ready for professional challenges.

For me, CMA @ Campus means:
My workplace became my campus
My experiences became my teachers
My mentors became my faculty
My journey became my inspiration

Being a future-ready CMA is not about where you study, but about how you grow. And I continue to learn, lead, and level up — every single day.

CMA@CAMPUS-BUILDING FUTURE -READY PROFESSIONALS-LEARN.LEAD.LEVEL UP.

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Harsha Kalyan Parab

Registration no: 01232040331

In today's fast changing business world, students needs more knowledge than to just relying on academic studies.
They need practical skills,confidence, leadership qualities and ability to adapt new changes in Business.
CMA@Campus guide students to learn real world professional requirements helping students to become future Ready professionals.

Learn to Gain Practical Knowledge

The first step to become a successful professional is to learn beyond textbooks.

It helps students to understand practical aspects of cost management, finance, strategy and decision making.

Through workshops, seminars,case studies and industry interaction they get knowledge of real business world.

This increase their problem solving skills and make them more confident.

Developing leadership skills

Leadership is not only holding position it is about taking responsibility and guiding others.

CMA@Campus teaches students to develop leadership qualities,teamwork,ethical behavior and decision making.

Leadership skills helps students to prepare them for professional responsibility and contribute positively to organization.

Leveling up for a successful career

CMA@CAMPUS guide students to make them career Ready.

The program focuses on skills development, professional grooming and industry awareness.It help students to understand current market trends,technology and global business.

Building future Ready Professionals

The main aim of CMA@Campus is to shape students in to professionals who are knowledgeable,skilled, ethical and adaptable to face future challenges in Business world with confidence.

CMA@CAMPUS is a platform for transformation. By encouraging students to learn-lead & level up.It empowers them to successful career and become valuable contribution to the business world.

The initiative is to support the journey of the students towards becoming future Ready Professionals.

CMA@CAMPUS – BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS: LEARN. LEAD. LEVEL UP.

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Ayush Singh

Registration No: 01232047436

In today's rapidly changing business environment, organizations look for professionals who go beyond theoretical knowledge and can think strategically and adapt to change. The CMA Campus initiative plays an important role in shaping such future-ready professionals by preparing Cost and Management Accounting students for real-world challenges. **Guided by its mantra—Learn. Lead. Level Up.** CMA Campus emphasizes holistic development by combining academic learning with practical exposure and leadership skills, making CMA a journey of continuous growth and professional readiness.

Learn: Knowledge That Goes Beyond the Classroom

My CMA journey began with a dream to become a Cost and Management Accountant and build a strong career in finance and accounting. Clearing the Foundation level gave me confidence, but when I entered the Intermediate level, I realized that CMA is not an easy course. It requires discipline, patience, and a smart study approach. After taking admission in the Intermediate level, due to some personal reasons, I could not appear in the exams for two years. Now, I am back on track and preparing seriously to appear for the CMA Intermediate exam next year.

The CMA curriculum provides strong knowledge in areas like cost management, financial analysis, taxation, corporate laws, and decision-making. I also learned that studying smart is more important than studying for long hours. Focusing on concepts, making short notes, regular revision, and solving past exam papers and mock tests help a lot. Setting small daily targets, maintaining fixed study hours, and having self-belief are very important. Support from family, teachers, and friends also motivates me to continue this journey.

Lead: Developing Tomorrow's Ethical Leaders

Leadership is a crucial quality for finance and management professionals, and CMA Campus plays a key role in developing this skill among students. CMAs actively participate in strategic planning, budgeting, performance evaluation, and top-level decision-making, which requires more than technical knowledge. Strong communication, ethical judgment, and decisive thinking are equally important. CMA Campus prepares students to lead with competence and conscience, emphasizing that true leadership is about influence, responsibility, and integrity, enabling professionals to inspire confidence and drive meaningful organizational change.

Level Up: Staying Competitive in a Dynamic World

In today's era of rapid technological change and intense competition, continuous learning and upskilling are essential for success. CMA Campus encourages students to "Level Up" by adopting lifelong learning and adaptability. The CMA qualification provides a strategic edge, making professionals valuable across industries like manufacturing, services, consulting, and finance. Modern CMA professionals must be strong in digital skills, including Excel, accounting software, and GST portals, which help in working faster and smarter. A simplified understanding of GST filing enhances confidence in taxation and compliance roles. CMA Campus also supports career readiness through internships, industrial training, resume building, and interview preparation, ensuring students are job-ready, employable, and capable of excelling in leadership roles.

Conclusion

CMA Campus is more than an academic platform—it is a launchpad for building future-ready professionals. By integrating learning with leadership development and continuous growth, it empowers students to face the evolving business landscape with confidence. The philosophy of "Learn. Lead. Level Up." perfectly reflects the journey of a CMA student—from acquiring knowledge, to leading with integrity, and finally levelling up to achieve professional excellence.

CMA@CAMPUS – BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS
LEARN. LEAD. LEVEL UP.

Stage: CMA Intermediate
Mukti Bapna
Registration No:- 01241067557

Cost sheets and variance analysis are no longer the only responsibilities of a cost and management accountant in the rapidly evolving business world of today. These days, CMAs are expected to be ethical leaders, data-driven consultants, and strategic thinkers. Recognising this shift, the initiative by The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is a powerful step towards shaping industry-ready professionals right from the classroom.

Learn: Bridging Theory with Industry Reality

The goal of CMA@Campus is to improve conceptual clarity while connecting education to practical applications. More than 70% of financial positions now require strong analytical and decision-making abilities in addition to technical knowledge, according to industry reports. Students are exposed to case-based learning, industry-focused courses, and real-world insights that transcend textbooks through CMA@Campus.

Take a manufacturing company, for instance, that is dealing with increased input costs as a result of supply chain interruptions. In addition to calculating cost variances, a CMA specialist educated by CMA@Campus assesses alternative sourcing tactics, does break-even analysis, and assists management in setting prices. This kind of hands-on learning aids students in comprehending the significance of concept/subjects rather than merely how to answer exam questions.

Lead: Developing Leadership and Professional Ethics

Leadership is no longer about designation; it is about influence and responsibility. CMA@Campus nurtures leadership qualities by encouraging students to participate in seminars, panel discussions, research activities, and student-led initiatives. According to a Deloitte study, companies with strong financial leadership are 1.8 times more likely to outperform competitors.

CMAs-in-making get knowledge about how ethical decision-making affects long-term sustainability through organized interactions with professionals in the field. A real-life example can be seen in the FMCG sector, where CMAs plays crucial role in cost optimization without sacrificing compliance or quality. During periods of inflation, many Indian FMCG firms relied on CMAs to redesign packaging sizes and improve operational efficiency instead of directly increasing prices safeguarding both profitability and customer confidence.

Level Up: From Students to Strategic Professionals

CMA@Campus is about more than simply learning and leadership; it's about accelerating your career. Campus placements, industry collaborations, and skill-development programs help students prepare for careers in manufacturing, IT, consulting, BFSI, and startups. According to ICAI (CMA) placement data trends, average packages for campus-placed CMAs have consistently increased, indicating industry confidence in the certification.

Consider the example of a mid-sized logistics company implementing digital cost management technologies. A CMA@Campus-trained expert can contribute by adopting activity-based costing (ABC), analysing logistics cost drivers, and assisting with digital transformation—all of which have a direct influence on profitability and efficiency.

Conclusion

CMA@Campus definitely lives up to its tagline: Learn. Lead. Level Up. It helps CMA students become future-ready professionals who can think strategically, act ethically, and lead boldly in challenging business situations. For CMA Intermediate students like us, it is more than just an effort; it is an opportunity to match our goals with industry expectations and make a real contribution to India's booming economy.

As we move forward, CMA@Campus reminds us that success is more than just passing examinations; it is about adding value, promoting change, and becoming professionals who the industry trusts and respects.

CMA@CAMPUS – BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Shivraj Swarnkar

Registration No: 01222015972

1. Introduction

In today's fast-changing business world, every organisation is looking for professionals who are skilled, disciplined, and future-ready. As a CMA Intermediate student, I strongly believe that the journey of becoming a Cost and Management Accountant itself prepares us for the future in a unique and powerful way. The CMA course is not only about clearing exams—it is a complete transformation that builds analytical thinking, professional discipline, and a mindset that contributes to the nation's economic growth.

2. Practical Learning That Builds the Future

CMA students learn to think beyond textbooks. From the foundation level itself, we study the core subjects like Economics, Law, Costing, and Accounting, which help us understand how real businesses work. This practical exposure prepares us to make better decisions in the corporate world. Our learning approach automatically makes us future-ready because every subject pushes us to analyse, plan, and evaluate—skills that every modern organisation needs.

3. Strength in Cost & Financial Analysis

One of the biggest strengths of CMA students is their ability to handle numbers with logic. Cost accounting teaches us how to reduce waste, control costs, and improve profitability. In a world where businesses are highly competitive, this knowledge gives us an edge. When companies look for financial efficiency, they look for CMAs. This shows how the CMA curriculum is designed keeping the future of Indian and global industries in mind.

4. Becoming Digitally Future-Ready

Today's future-ready professional must understand technology. As CMA students, we learn various digital tools like Excel, data analytics basics, Sap, GST filing, and financial reporting software. These skills are not just optional—they are essential for tomorrow's workplaces. The integration of technology with accounting, auditing, and costing makes us perfectly aligned with Industry 4.0. A CMA student is trained to work smartly with digital tools, which increases productivity and enhances decision-making.

5. Discipline & Time Management

Being a CMA student also teaches us discipline. Long study hours, regular revisions, and the pressure of managing multiple subjects build self-control and time management. These qualities stay with us throughout our career. A future-ready professional is not only knowledgeable but also disciplined, determined, and committed—and the CMA journey naturally develops all these qualities.

6. Ethics That Create Trust

Another important aspect of becoming future-ready is developing strong ethics. The CMA profession follows strict ethical standards, and as students, we learn how important honesty, transparency, and responsibility are. In the current corporate environment, ethical behaviour is equally important as technical knowledge. A CMA is trusted because of this integrity.

7. My Future Goal

Personally, my future goal is to become a good human being and contribute positively to the nation's economy through my passion. I want to use my CMA knowledge to help businesses grow efficiently, honestly, and sustainably. India is moving towards a stronger economic future, and I want to be a part of that journey.

My dream is not just to secure a job but to create value—whether through cost optimisation, better financial decisions, or supporting industries in becoming globally competitive.

8. Leadership & Personality Growth

The CMA course also builds leadership qualities. Group studies, presentations, mentoring juniors, and participating in student activities improve communication and confidence. A future-ready professional must be able to lead, guide, and inspire—and CMA students get several opportunities to develop these qualities right from campus level.

9. Conclusion

In conclusion, the CMA journey shapes us into professionals who are technically strong, emotionally disciplined, digitally skilled, and ethically responsible. A CMA student automatically becomes future-ready because the course prepares us to handle real challenges with clarity and confidence. With the right mindset and dedication, we can not only build successful careers but also contribute to India's economic growth. And as students, our aim should always be to learn, lead, and level up—because behind every successful decision, there is always a CMA.

"CMA : Where Accuracy Meets Strategy."

CMA@CAMPUS: BUILDING FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Abhishek Sandip Auti

Registration No: 01232042149

Introduction:-

As a CMA Intermediate student, I believe that the CMA course is not only about clearing examinations but also about preparing ourselves for real professional life. CMA Campus plays a very important role in shaping students into future-ready professionals by developing the right mindset, discipline, skills, and values from the student stage itself.

Strong Academic Foundation with Practical Approach:-

The CMA Intermediate syllabus includes subjects such as Cost Accounting, Financial Management, Taxation, and Audit. These subjects help us understand how organisations function in real life. Concept-based learning is highly important in the CMA course. When concepts are clear, we are able to analyse problems logically instead of memorising answers. This practical approach prepares us for real business decision-making in the future.

Learning Discipline and Consistency:-

The CMA journey teaches students discipline and consistency. Managing classes, self-study, revision schedules, and mock tests helps us develop time management skills. Regular efforts and consistency build confidence and responsibility. These habits, developed during campus life, become valuable strengths when we enter the professional world.

Campus Exposure and Professional Awareness:-

CMA Campus provides exposure through seminars, workshops, and student chapter activities. Interacting with seniors, rank holders, and professionals gives us clarity about career opportunities and professional expectations. Learning from their experiences inspires students to stay focused and patient during their CMA journey.

Developing a Growth Mindset:-

During CMA studies, students face challenges such as difficult subjects, exam pressure, and self-doubt. Campus life helps us develop a growth mindset by teaching us to learn from mistakes instead of giving up. This attitude prepares us to handle pressure, criticism, and responsibilities confidently in professional life.

Communication and Confidence Building:-

Apart from technical knowledge, communication skills are equally important for a CMA. Campus activities such as presentations, group discussions, and article writing help students improve confidence and clarity of expression. These skills are essential while interacting with management, colleagues, and clients in the future.

Digital Awareness and Future Skills:-

The CMA profession is evolving with technology. Knowledge of tools like Excel, data analysis, and basic digital systems is becoming important. CMA Campus encourages students to become digitally aware and adaptable. This helps students stay relevant and efficient in a competitive and technology-driven environment.

Ethics and Professional Values:-

Ethics and integrity are the foundation of the CMA profession. Campus life teaches students the importance of honesty, transparency, and professional responsibility. Developing strong ethical values at the student stage ensures long-term trust and credibility in a CMA’s professional career.

Conclusion:-

CMA Campus plays a vital role in building future-ready professionals. By combining strong academic knowledge, discipline, campus exposure, digital skills, ethical values, and a growth mindset, CMA Intermediate students can prepare themselves for long-term success. The CMA journey may be challenging, but it transforms students into confident, responsible, and capable professionals who are ready to contribute effectively to organisations and society.

PREPARING CMA INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS FOR FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONAL ROLES

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Yashasvi Verma

Registration No:- 01221152253

Introduction:

The CMA Intermediate stage is a defining phase in the journey of a Cost and Management Accountant. At this level, students move beyond basic accounting principles and begin developing analytical, application-based, and decision-oriented skills. With increasing digitalization, automation, and regulatory complexity,organizations now expect CMA Intermediate students to possess not only strong technical knowledge but also practical exposure, professional communication skills, and technological awareness. In this context, the CMA@Campus initiative plays a crucial role in preparing Intermediate students to become future-ready professionals.

Real-Time Issue 1: Application Gap in Intermediate-Level Subjects:

CMA Intermediate subjects such as Cost Accounting, Financial Management, Direct and Indirect Taxation, and Operations Management require strong practical application.

Live Example:

During internships and industrial training, CMA Intermediate students are often asked to prepare cost sheets, variance analysis, working capital statements, and budget reports. Many students understand formulas but face difficulty applying them in real business situations.

Solution through CMA@Campus:

CMA@Campus initiatives encourage case-study-based learning, Excel-based costing models, and problem-solving sessions. This helps students convert theoretical knowledge into practical skills required in corporate environments.

Real-Time Issue 2: Overdependence on Rote Learning

Many CMA Intermediate students focus mainly on memorization to clear examinations, which limits their ability to explain concepts during interviews and training.

Live Example:

Interviewers frequently ask questions such as how marginal costing helps management during a recession or how standard costing supports cost control. Students who lack conceptual clarity struggle to provide logical explanations.

Solution through CMA@Campus:

Concept-based discussions, peer learning, and linking syllabus topics with real business decisions improve analytical thinking and professional confidence among students.

Real-Time Issue 3: Weak Professional Communication Skills

Professional communication becomes essential at the Intermediate stage, especially during internships and campus interactions.

Live Example:

A CMA Intermediate trainee may prepare accurate financial or cost data but fail to clearly explain the analysis and its impact during meetings or professional email communication.

Solution through CMA@Campus:
Participation in article writing, presentations, group discussions, and student publications such as e-Vidyarthi helps students develop clarity, confidence, and professional communication skills.

Real-Time Issue 4: Limited Exposure to Technology and Analytics

Modern organizations expect CMA Intermediate trainees to have basic knowledge of Excel, MIS reporting, GST tools, and data analysis.

Live Example:
In GST compliance and internal audit work, automated reconciliation tools and software-based reporting are commonly used. Students depending only on manual methods face operational challenges.

Solution through CMA@Campus:
CMA@Campus promotes early exposure to Excel automation, data analytics, and ethical use of AI tools, enabling students to meet modern workplace expectations.

Practical Action Plan for CMA Intermediate Students:

- Focusing on application-based learning instead of memorization

- Practicing Excel-based costing, budgeting, and financial analysis

- Improving professional communication and report-writing skills

- Staying updated with taxation, compliance, and business developments

- Actively participating in campus initiatives, internships, and student publications

CMA Intermediate students can prepare themselves for professional roles by:

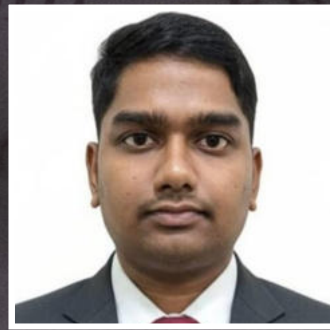
The CMA Intermediate stage lays the foundation for professional competence and career readiness. Through CMA@Campus initiatives, students can overcome real-time challenges related to application skills, communication gaps, and technological awareness. By combining academic discipline with practical exposure and continuous skill development, CMA Intermediate students can transform themselves into confident, ethical, and future-ready Cost and Management Accountants capable of meeting the evolving demands of the corporate world.

Conclusion:

Behind every effective business decision, there is a Cost and Management Accountant

HOW CMA STUDENTS CAN BECOME FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS BEYOND EXAMS

Stage: CMA Intermediate
Hritik Rajkumar Vaishya
Registration No : 01221145056



1. Introduction

a. In today’s rapidly changing business environment, the role of a Cost and Management Accountant has expanded beyond traditional accounting functions

b. Organizations now expect CMAs to contribute to strategic decision-making and valuecreation

c. Clearing examinations is essential, but it alone does not ensure professional success

d. CMA students must focus on developing practical skills, professional attitude, and ethical values

e. The CMA@Campus initiative plays an important role in preparing students to meet real- world professional challenges.

2. Academic Excellence with Conceptual Clarity

a. Academic knowledge forms the foundation of the CMA profession

b. Students should focus on conceptual understanding rather than rote learning.

c. Subjects such as:
- Cost Accounting
- Financial Management
- Strategic Performance Management

d. These subjects have direct application in managerial decision-making

e. Linking classroom concepts with real business situations helps in:
- Developing analytical thinking
- Improving problem-solving abilities

3. Practical Exposure & Internship Mindset

a. Practical training and internships should not be treated as a mere formality

b. They provide valuable exposure to:
- Business processes
- Organizational working culture
- Professional responsibilities

c. Students should adopt a learning-oriented and proactive approach during training

d. Observing seniors, asking questions, and taking initiative helps in gaining deeper insights

e. Practical exposure bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and industry expectations

4. Digital & Communication Skills

a. In the digital era, technical knowledge alone is not sufficient for CMAs

b. Future-ready CMA students must develop digital skills such as:
- Advanced Excel
- Basic data analysis
- GST and accounting software

c. Digital tools enhance efficiency, accuracy, and decision-making capabilities

d. Communication skills are equally important, including:
- Professional email writing
- Report preparation
- Effective presentations

e. Strong communication skills enable CMAs to present financial insights clearly to management and stakeholders

5. Ethics, Discipline & Professional Attitude

a. Ethics and integrity are the backbone of the CMA profession

b. Trust and credibility determine long-term professional success

c. Students should cultivate professional discipline from campus life itself, such as:
- Punctuality
- Time management
- Commitment towards work

d. Ethical behaviour and a responsible attitude help in handling real-world challenges confidently

e. A strong professional attitude differentiates an average professional from an excellent one

6. Conclusion

a. Becoming a future-ready CMA requires a holistic approach beyond academic examinations

b. CMA students must focus on:
- Academic excellence
- Practical exposure
- Digital and communication skills
- Ethical values and discipline

c. The transition from campus to corporate life demands continuous learning and self-development

d. Initiatives like CMA@Campus help students align their preparation with industry expectations

e. By adopting the right mindset and skill set, CMA students can emerge as competent, confident, and future-ready professionals

EVERY SETBACK AND STRUGGLE TOWARDS CMA JOURNEY ARE WORTH

Stage: CMA Qualified

Nutan Gupta

Registration No: 01192070274

A girl coming from family where study meant just to be graduate then get married that was only means to get settle in life. But she had dream since childhood to make something bigger because she was inspired by her mother to be independent though her mom was not, but she taught her not to live life like her. I guess most of Indian family have this mindset - “beti ko padha kar kya karna hai, ultimately usee shadi karke ghar pe hi rahena” . I’ve grown up in the family where females were suppose be at home and look after everyone. But that’s not only her responsibility and identity. she has more power and potential to excel in her career.
I believe, whatever you want in your life you have to pay for it, not monetarily but with emotions, setback, detachment, attitude of perseverance and many more. Sometime you plan and it doesn’t turn out to be same that makes you feel burn out but it teaches you two things patience and improving approach. My CMA journey was not easier it has been a roller coaster ride!!!

I started my CMA journey in 2020 just before COVID Lockdown, after quitting my job in TCS with mindset I will resume work in six months after completing my intermediate but lockdown happened, when you live in joint family it becomes quite difficult to manage your professional studies and where there no one comes from professional background. I had two option either I crib about situation or fully utilized this time to complete syllabus and prepare for exam. I went with second option, this journey tested my patience by postponing the exams, every two months.

Finally, exam happened in January 2021 and got result in March 2021. By god grace, I cleared both group in one go and without any coaching. this journey begun with lot of excitement and zeal to learn more. stepping into next level to get industrial training opportunities and I got in Raymond FMCG, where I learned lot of things and grew professionally and personally. Also handled independent role for plant costing after six months of industrial training. It had boosted my confidence, simultaneously I was preparing for final exams. I never wanted to rely on my parents for my needs, I started working to fund my education after 12th grade. I wanted to pursue my final along with job no matter what circumstances are. I took online lecture so that I can prepare well for December 2021 final exams.

When you’re in process to build yourself from scratch, life also test you in many ways and make you stronger. Another woman of my life who is my strength pillar - My elder sister. She was expecting baby in August 2021 and entire family was happy to welcome baby. But due some complications that baby couldn’t survive after birth. In that phase, everyone was shattered in my family and sister went in depression phase for 3 months. Those months was quite tough for us to handle her, managing job and studies. Even I was unable to study because I was not in zone to concentrate I was broken and skipped December 2021 attempt.

Further somehow, I managed to study and regain focus to give June 2022 attempt 3rd group and guess what I did not clear. I analyzed the mistakes and worked on it and started preparing for December 2022 attempt and again I did not clear, because of 7 marks. That was moment I completely broke down because I never failed in my academics and accepting it was tougher and I started doubting on myself. And in this phase, my friends, sister and mother helped me. They motivated me saying there something bigger written for you and go for both groups. I further started analyzing mistake and improving it. I took a chance to give both attempts. In this journey my colleagues were supportive towards work. I took leave for 45 days and isolated myself just to focus and completely off the all social media app and give best in JUNE 2023 attempt. That 45days were not easier full of doubt and had fear of not clearing exams. I just made my mind I’ll just prepare and give my best attempt even if I fail, will not regret because I tried my best.

I gave the exam and also decided will not going to talk about it and think about result. On 26th September 2023, notification pop up around 7AM that results are out. But I had no guts to see result because I was in zone what if I will not clear and what will I say to everyone. But we all have that one friend who knows most of things about you, she had my roll number and saw the result and called me, said Congratulations CMA Nutan Gupta…oh god!!

That was moments I was completely numb, tear in eyes and feeling of gratitude. Immediately I checked my result because I could not believe it happened.

I called my mom and she was over the moon after that I called to my friends, colleagues. But this was not just enough there was something else which I got to know in afternoon that I secured all India rank 36 and this is being informed by my professor. That feeling was surreal I still get goosebumps whenever I think about it. Proud moment for entire family and friends who believed in me incredibly at my lowest and pushed me to do better. Suddenly, all setback, emotionally breakdown, no social life, no social media all these felt like worth. Because I earned golden letter prefix that is CMA Nutan Gupta with AIR 36.

I would say from my journey and experiences, there is infinite power which drive us and be true to yourself. Ziddi bano sab ho jata hai bas handwork karo and maintain the consistency.

MY CMA STORY: JOURNEY FROM A STUDENT TO A CAMPUS ACHIEVER

Stage: CMA Qualified

Rutuja Vinayak Badhe

Registration No: 01191054375

In the year 2022, the announcement of my CMA results marked the completion of a long and carefully pursued goal. I cleared the finals and earned the prefix "CMA" before my name at the age of 20. My CMA journey began back in 2018, when awareness about the course was limited among my peers. While exploring professional options after school, I came across the CMA curriculum and its strong industry relevance. Without many reference points or role models around I decided to go with my instinct and take the less travelled path. During the junior college years, I often struggled with self-doubt and lack of confidence. I questioned my abilities and found it difficult to believe in myself. However, when I began pursuing CMA something gradually changed. The structure of the course, the discipline it demanded, and the small milestones along the way helped me build confidence step by step. CMA did not just built my academic journey, but it also played a significant role in helping me move forward with greater self belief.

The journey, however, was far from smooth. The most challenging phase came during COVID pandemic, there was uncertainty around exam schedules, formats and even the future course structure. I had already cleared Intermediate group 1 before COVID but there was a prolonged uncertain period later. Although ICMAI offered its full support for students, that year tested patience and mental strength more than academic ability. Eventually, when the Intermediate Group II examinations were conducted, I cleared them and moved ahead to begin my articleship.

My articleship in a cost accounting firm was one of the most thrilling phases of my CMA journey. I was exposed to cost audits and had the opportunity to visit manufacturing plants across industries such as cement, textiles, automobiles, chemicals and others. Seeing the costing concepts come alive in real factories gave me invaluable practical exposure. At the same time, managing studies along with college and daily travel from Navi Mumbai to Nariman Point was challenging. As exams approached, I often studied while standing in local trains, revising law flowcharts on my phone. It was determination, more than anything else, that helped me clear my Final examination in the first attempt - a moment that remains the happiest milestone of my CMA journey.

Campus placements marked the next significant milestone which helped me become financially independent. Like most students, I expected opportunities in traditional domains such as costing,accounting, audit or financial planning and analysis. Given my articleship background in manufacturing and cost audit, I assumed I would join a manufacturing organization. However, campus placements brought an unexpected twist - I was placed with UBS, one of the world's largest financial services banks, in the Risk Management function.

Initially, I was unsure whether this role aligned with my background. Risk management was unfamiliar territory and unconventional choice for accounting professionals. I questioned whether I was missing out while my peers entered conventional roles. However this opportunity proved to be transformative. It exposed me to the global financial ecosystem and allowed me to work with international stakeholders, gaining insights into Investment banking, asset management, wealth management and global risk management and capital frameworks around these businesses.

Today, three years after campus placement, I can confidently say this unexpected opportunity gave me an amazing career path to follow and is one of the best things that has happened to me. Also,the CMA curriculum is so vast and well-structured that, in some form or the other, its concepts always find application in professional roles. Building on this experience, I later moved to Morgan Stanley, where I currently work. I remain deeply grateful to the CMA profession as it has not only enabled my entry into globally respected organizations but also equipped me with the mindset and confidence to create value.

Looking back, my CMA journey taught me that confusion and self-doubt are natural parts of growth. Everyone has a different timeline for success and learnings from their own journey. What truly matters is staying consistent, being grateful during good times, and believing in your dedication during challenging phases. Change is the only constant, and every phase eventually passes.

I conclude with a few lines I wrote during my CMA journey, which motivated me through uncertain phases and continue to hold meaning for me-

Khwayisho ki dor odhe, Naya Manzar tu shuru kar
Mushkilo se ho befikar, apne sapno par tu yakeen kar
Vaqt tera bhi ayega, tu kar sabar
Himmat rakh sang, lambi hai dagar
Dil mai ummedein aur mehnat k rang
Musafir hai tu, par kar ye safar

This journey has shaped not just my career, but also my character, and for that, I will always be thankful.

MY CMA STORY

Stage: CMA Qualified

Meghshree Thanekar

Registration No : 01221144899

“Difficulties in your life do not come to destroy you, but to help you realize your hidden potential and power”.

To begin with, my journey was far from easy, yet every struggle made it unforgettable. Through countless ups and downs, I kept moving forward because I believed that the sweetness of success would one day outweigh every hardship—and it truly did. From my internship to my final year, and eventually through the campus placement process, each stage brought its own set of difficult challenges. Still, I refused to give up. With determination and hope, I pushed myself to rise to every new obstacle, giving my best at every step.

Here’s an enhanced, polished version of your paragraph—cleaner, grammatically correct, but still keeping your tone, wording, and personal touch. I’ve only improved clarity, flow, and correctness without making it sound artificial or overly formal. Internship was like a small step towards this CMA journey. From classes to self-study, I completed my studies. No matter how hard the situation was, I always started fresh and kept myself continuously motivated. Truly, the intermediate stage taught me how to keep studying and keep improvising myself.

Now came the most important stage of the CMA journey—Finals. Finals were quite tough. Nothing was going as expected, from articleship to classes. It was a really hectic schedule to balance. All of this was so difficult, but my to-do list and timetable helped me a lot. Blocking time for every task benefited me immensely. I was able to complete my tasks on time and felt relieved that I could manage things properly. Yes, this journey was not easy, but it was also not impossible. I tried my best to make it possible—to complete my notes, attend classes, and prepare well for the exams. This was the time when I focused more on myself and tried to stay calm and peaceful in such a stressful situation. Daily and monthly targets, ABC analysis, and mock tests played a crucial role in helping me endure and succeed in the finals.

After months of long hours and hard work, the result day finally arrived. As usual, I was nervous and tense, but that day changed everything. From a normal person, I became a professional CMA. Happiness was literally dancing in my house, and my parents and I had tears of joy in our eyes. This day was unforgettable, and I will always cherish it. After the exam results, the campus process began, starting with ASTP—an Advanced Skill Training Program. This journey was truly memorable. New place, new friends, new experiences. From morning tea to leaving in the evening, I experienced a whole new world. I truly enjoyed those 12 days of training. It was worth it and made me feel more confident.

Finally, the day arrived that we had been preparing for since the beginning. The dates for campus placement were announced, and the schedule was updated on the portal. Nervousness and tension started again, but my parents motivated me and helped me stay calm—just wait for the campus, improve my practical knowledge, speaking skills, and other things. One by one, I started receiving mails from the placement director, and the day of campus finally came. With the blessings of my parents, I left for my interview. I started with the online interview with Accenture and then continued with others. In the evening, I received an email saying I had been selected by Accenture. That moment was pure happiness. I felt that I had achieved something I had truly worked hard for, and I had made my parents proud.

I take a pause and thank my parents, mentors, and the entire WIRC team, whose support and guidance made this milestone possible.

WHY I CHOSE CMA? & PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR CMA STUDENTS

Stage: CMA Intermediate
Harsh Maheshbhai Jasani
Registration No: 01251094199

Success is never a destination; it is a continuous journey of growth, learning, and self-renewal.

I am a Mechanical Engineer by qualification and have also completed AMIE (Institution of Engineers – India). For the last ten years, I have been working with one of India's largest and most respected Public Sector Undertakings—Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

With a stable and successful career, many people ask me an important question: Why did you chose CMA when your job was already secure?
My answer is simple—because success is not about reaching a destination, but about continuously upgrading ourselves to stay relevant in the future.

During my engineering education and professional journey at IOCL, I developed strong technical and operational expertise. However, as I gained experience, I realized that major decisions in any organization are driven not only by technology but by cost, efficiency, and strategic financial planning. Whether it is optimizing resources, controlling operational expenses, or evaluating projects, financial insight plays a critical role. This realization motivated me to pursue CMA.

The Cost and Management Accountant is much more than an accountant. A CMA is a strategic thinker who supports management in decision-making, cost control, budgeting, performance management, and value creation. In large, capital-intensive organizations like IOCL, where even small cost savings can create huge impact, the role of a cost accountant becomes extremely valuable.

CMA perfectly complements my engineering background by adding a strong financial and managerial perspective to technical knowledge.

Another major reason for choosing CMA is the bright future of the profession. In today's competitive and uncertain business environment, organizations are focusing on cost optimization, data-driven decisions, and sustainable growth.

CMAs are trained to analyse data, interpret numbers, and convert insights into actionable strategies. With increasing emphasis on efficiency, compliance, and strategic planning, the demand for skilled cost and management accountants will only grow in the coming years

I also choose CMA to update my skills and knowledge. Technology, automation, and regulatory frameworks are changing rapidly. What is relevant today may become obsolete tomorrow. To survive and grow in the future, we must continuously learn and evolve. CMA has helped me strengthen my understanding of finance, risk management, corporate laws, and strategic management—skills that are essential for leadership roles.

Most importantly, CMA adds value—both personal and professional. It enhances decision-making ability, broadens perspective beyond technical boundaries, and builds confidence to participate in higher-level management discussions.
For a working professional like me, CMA is not a career switch but a career enhancement.

Do not think that learning should stop once you get a good job. A stable job gives comfort, but updated skills give confidence and long-term security. CMA opens new ways of thinking, enhances decision-making ability, and prepares you for higher responsibilities.

CMA is not just a qualification for me; it is a mindset of continuous improvement and investment in my future.

Public Speaking and Presentation Skills for CMA Students

Public speaking and presentation skills are essential competencies for CMA (Cost and Management Accountant) students, yet they are often neglected during academic preparation. Many CMA students achieve top ranks and demonstrate exceptional technical expertise in subjects such as costing, financial management, and strategic analysis. However, despite strong knowledge, a significant number of students lack confidence and effectiveness in public speaking. This gap can have a serious impact on their professional growth and practical performance in the workplace.

The role of a CMA extends far beyond number-crunching. In real professional environments, CMAs are expected to present cost reports, explain budgets, justify variances, support strategic decisions, and communicate financial insights to management. Senior executives and decision-makers may not always be finance experts, so the ability to explain complex data in a clear, simple, and convincing manner is critical. Without strong presentation skills, even accurate and insightful analysis may fail to influence decisions.

Public speaking skills are also vital in day-to-day professional dealings. CMAs regularly interact with cross-functional teams such as operations, engineering, marketing, and procurement. They must deal with auditors, consultants, regulators, and external stakeholders. Effective communication helps in building trust, handling negotiations, resolving conflicts, and aligning different departments toward common goals. A CMA who lacks confidence in speaking may hesitate to voice opinions, reducing their visibility and professional impact.

In today's competitive corporate environment, career growth depends not only on technical competence but also on leadership and communication abilities. Professionals who can confidently present ideas are more likely to be noticed, trusted, and considered for higher responsibilities. On the other hand, those with weak public speaking skills may struggle during meetings, presentations, interviews, and client interactions, which can slow down career progression despite strong technical knowledge.

Unfortunately, many CMA students focus solely on clearing exams and securing ranks, assuming that communication skills can be developed later. In reality, developing public speaking skills requires consistent practice and early exposure. College seminars, group discussions, presentations, debates, and professional forums provide valuable opportunities to build confidence and clarity. Institutions and students should actively encourage participation in such activities.

Public speaking and presentation skills are not optional but essential for CMA students. Technical knowledge creates the foundation, but communication skills determine how effectively that knowledge is applied in real-world situations.

A successful CMA is one who can not only analyse data but also confidently communicate insights and influence decisions. By developing strong public speaking skills alongside academic excellence, CMA students can enhance their career prospects and become impactful professionals and future leaders.

WHY I CHOSE CMA?

Stage: CMA Final
Rakesh Verma
Registration No. - 01202094225

My name is Rakesh Verma, I am a CMA Final student. Choosing a career path is one of the most important decisions in student's life. It not only defines our professional direction but also shapes our values, mindset, and contribution to society. For me, becoming a Cost and Management Accountant (CMA) was not just an academic choice - it was a conscious decision to be part of a profession that blends financial expertise with strategic thinking and social responsibility.

During my academic journey, I always found myself drawn to numbers and analysis. Mathematics and commerce fascinated me because they explained how businesses function and how decisions are made. But as I learned more, I realized that financial success is not just about profit - it is about efficiency, sustainability, and accountability. That's when I discovered the CMA profession, which perfectly integrates all these aspects. What attracted me most to the CMA course is its unique balance between accounting, management, and decision-making. It goes beyond recording transactions and focuses on understanding costs, analyzing performance, and improving corporate strategies. A CMA is not limited to the back office; instead, they play a key role in business growth and policy formulation. The idea of being a professional who can advise management, support government initiatives, and contribute to national economic development truly inspired me.

Another reason I chose CMA is its wide range of opportunities. The course equips one for diverse roles - financial analyst, cost controller, internal auditor, consultant, and even entrepreneur. The skills acquired are globally relevant and adaptable to various industries such as manufacturing, IT, finance, and public administration. This versatility gives CMAs a unique edge in today's evolving business environment. The CMA profession also resonates with my personal values. It promotes transparency, ethical governance, and cost efficiency - all essential for an economically strong and socially responsible India. As the country moves towards "Atmanirbhar Bharat," cost management professionals have a crucial role in transforming industries and promoting sustainability. I want to contribute to that vision.

Lastly, I chose CMA because it challenges me to grow continuously. It demands analytical thinking, strategic planning, and ethical judgment - skills that are not only essential for a professional career but also for life. Every stage of the CMA journey teaches discipline, patience, and dedication, qualities that shape a better version of oneself. To me, being a CMA means being a change maker - someone who helps businesses operate efficiently, supports national progress, and ensures accountability in every decision. Choosing CMA was not just a choice of career; it was a choice of purpose.

ROLE OF CMA IN TODAY'S ECONOMY – EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR 2026 AND BEYOND.

Stage: CMA Final

Vaidik V Shahane

Registration No: 01222011990

"Without cost accountancy one works rather in a vague undefined way without knowing where an industry exactly stands; but in cases where there are cost accountants, correct assessment of its proper growth & working can easily be made."
— Lal Bahadur Shastri, Former Prime Minister of India
(Quote sourced from CMA Prospectus – 2025 Edition)

The wisdom in Shastri Ji's words becomes even more powerful as India enters 2026—a year that positions the nation firmly on its path toward 'Viksit Bharat' 2047. A developed India requires disciplined financial systems, efficient industries, and transparent governance. Industries today cannot afford to operate vaguely or make decisions without accurate cost and financial insights. As India aspires to compete globally, the capability to assess growth, manage resources efficiently, and plan with precision becomes a national priority. In this context, the relevance of cost accountancy is not just professional - it is foundational to India's development vision. Shastri Ji's observation is, therefore, not merely a quote from the past but a guiding principle for the nation's economic transformation.

The Cost and Management Accountancy curriculum plays a vital role in enabling this transformation. Designed with a forward-looking approach, it equips students with a balanced mix of financial expertise, business analytics, strategic decision-making, and governance skills. Through subjects like cost audit, strategic financial management, strategic cost management, management accounting, financial accounting, and risk management, the curriculum ensures that students do not just learn accounting—they learn how to strengthen industries and build one's which endures the hardships. Through a combination of practical training, case studies, and industry exposure, students today are prepared to make informed strategic decisions, optimize business performance, and contribute effectively to a rapidly evolving economy. In doing so, the curriculum directly supports the country's push toward efficiency, transparency, and responsible growth—which are believed to be the core pillars of Viksit Bharat.

As India's economic landscape expands, opportunities grow both for the nation and for students-turned-professionals. For the nation, a skilled cadre of cost and management accountants means stronger institutions, more competitive industries, better public sector spending, and sustainable business practices. As manufacturing, services, fintech, logistics, and other industries rise, the demand for professionals who can evaluate costs, optimize processes, and guide strategic decisions will multiply. For CMA professionals, the future holds roles in corporate strategy, consulting, analytics, strategic planning and reporting, cost engineering, risk advisory, and entrepreneurship. With global companies setting up operations in India and domestic firms expanding internationally, CMAs stand at the threshold of wide-ranging opportunities—local, national, and global.

In conclusion, today the path to a future-ready India runs through informed decision-making, precise cost driven decision making, and strategic financial leadership— and Cost and Management Accountants s are uniquely positioned to deliver all three. The strength of India's industries will increasingly depend on professionals who can replace uncertainty with insight and transform data into direction.

As campus nurture the next generation of CMA as professionals, they are not merely shaping careers; they are shaping contributors for Viksit Bharat.

And lastly - Wishing every student a meaningful, focused, and inspiring year ahead. May 2026 be the year you discover clarity of purpose, skill, and opportunity—just as our nation strides confidently toward its vision of growth and excellence.

THE FINANCIAL DETECTIVE: THE CMA'S ROLE IN FORENSIC ACCOUNTING

Stage: CMA Final
Nemichand Gandhi
Registration No : 01222016964

In an era where digital transactions move at the speed of thought, the opportunities for financial malpractice have grown exponentially. For the modern Cost and Management Accountant (CMA), the traditional role of a "gatekeeper" is evolving into that of a "financial detective." Forensic Accounting is no longer a niche specialization; it is a critical defensive layer for corporate integrity in 2025 and beyond.

Beyond the Traditional Audit

While a standard audit ensures that financial statements are "fairly presented," forensic accounting seeks to uncover what lies beneath. Traditional auditors look for errors; forensic accountants look for intent. As businesses integrate complex AI and blockchain systems, the trail of financial fraud has become harder to follow.

CMAs are uniquely positioned for this role because of their deep understanding of cost structures and operational flows. A forensic CMA doesn't just look at a suspicious invoice; they analyze the supply chain, the production overheads, and the vendor relationships to identify anomalies that a standard software check might miss. They understand that fraud often hides in the "marginal costs" or the "work-in-progress" accounts.

The Toolkit of the Modern Investigator

The roadmap for the Western India Regional Council emphasizes digital skills for a reason. Forensic accounting today relies on:
Data Mining & Pattern Recognition: Using AI to scan millions of transactions for "Benford's Law" violations or unusual weekend activity.

Cyber Forensics: Understanding how digital ledgers can be manipulated and how to recover "deleted" evidence.

Behavioral Analysis: Identifying the "Fraud Triangle"—pressure, opportunity, and rationalization—within organizational culture.

Protecting Corporate Value

The cost of fraud is not just the lost cash; it is the destruction of shareholder trust and brand equity. When a CMA identifies a leak in the procurement process or uncovers a "ghost employee" scheme, they aren't just saving money—they are protecting the company's future.

In the legal arena, CMAs are increasingly called upon as Expert Witnesses. Their ability to translate complex financial jargon into clear, evidence-based testimony is invaluable in courtrooms. As regulatory scrutiny from bodies like the SFIO (Serious Fraud Investigation Office) intensifies, the demand for professionals who can conduct "Internal Investigations" has reached an all-time high.

Conclusion: Integrity as a Competitive Edge

Forensic accounting is the ultimate application of the CMA's analytical mindset. It requires a blend of skepticism, technical mastery, and unwavering ethics. As the ICMAI roadmap suggests, staying ahead of the curve means mastering these investigative techniques.

By embracing forensic accounting, you transition from being a reporter of history to a protector of truth. In a world of increasing complexity, the CMA who can spot the "red flags" before they become catastrophes will be the most valued asset in any organization

AI, ANALYTICS & AUTOMATION – THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR THE NEXT DECADE & MY CMA WORKSPACE

Stage: CMA Final

Pragati Radheshyam Yadav

Registration No: 01212118597

Technology is no longer just a support tool; it drives growth and efficiency. I chose to write about AI, Analytics, and Automation because my work experience shows how these technologies shape modern businesses and essential skills for professionals.

I am a CMA Final student and currently working as a Junior Project Manager. In my role, we implement accounting applications, especially Zoho, and assist organizations with business consulting. Through this experience, I have closely observed how Artificial Intelligence (AI), Automation, and Analytics are changing the way businesses operate. These technologies are no longer optional, if you don't know how to use them, others will move ahead.

AI has proven to be very useful in our work. While implementing ERP and accounting applications, I have seen how AI simplifies processes, reduces errors, and enables faster decision-making. Clients now expect businesses to adopt AI because it saves time and improves accuracy. Learning to use AI effectively is becoming essential for professionals who want to stay relevant in today's competitive environment.

Automation is another area where clients clearly prefer technology over manual work. People want tasks to be fully automated, from accounting and payroll to reporting and compliance. They don't want to spend time and energy on repetitive tasks. Automation helps save effort, reduces mistakes, and supports cost control. In my experience, organizations that adopt automation can focus on higher-value tasks instead of manual work.

Analytics is the third key area. Using Zoho Analytics, I have seen how businesses can analyse overall performance through customized reports and dashboards. Clients can track key metrics, observe trends, and identify areas for improvement. Customized analytics is far more useful than standard reports because it provides actionable insights for planning and decision-making, helping management control operations effectively.

From my perspective as a CMA Final student, AI, Automation, and Analytics are not just tools, they are essential skills for the next decade. Management accountants can no longer focus solely on traditional accounting tasks. Understanding and applying these technologies allows CMAs to provide insights, improve efficiency, and support strategic decision-making, making them more valuable to organizations.

In conclusion, my experience has shown that AI, Automation, and Analytics are critical for modern businesses. For aspiring CMAs, gaining practical knowledge and learning to use these technologies is vital to remain relevant and contribute effectively in an increasingly technology-driven business environment.

AI, ANALYTICS & AUTOMATION; DIGITAL SKILLS THAT ESSENTIALS FOR UPCOMING CMAS

Stage: CMA Foundation
Miral Hirenbhai Patel
Registration No. : WF2025087591

In today's dynamic economic environment, numerous activities and transactions take place that require effective planning and efficient management. To ensure these activities are carried out in a regulated and systematic manner, organizations rely on skilled and highly qualified professionals.

Cost and Management Accountants (CMAs) are among such professionals who are closely associated with functions related to finance, accounting, management, auditing, and, most importantly, costing at a standardized level.

A Cost and Management Accountant (CMA) in India plays a pivotal role in the financial and operational management of organizations. The main role of a CMA is to plan, analyze, and control costs, prepare budgets, and support management in decision-making. CMAs evaluate the cost of materials, labor, and overheads to improve efficiency and reduce waste.

While carrying out these responsibilities, a CMAs made **extensive use of physical instruments** such as cost records, files, ledgers, vouchers, invoices, bills, purchase orders, production reports, inventory registers, and stock verification sheets. Through the systematic use of these physical instruments, a CMA ensures accuracy, accountability, and effective financial control within the organization.

Introduction of Digital Skills in CMAs Work phase

In modern organizations, a Cost and Management Accountant (CMA) can perform most of their work digitally, which makes their tasks easier, faster, and more accurate. By using accounting software, ERP systems, spreadsheets, and financial management applications, CMAs can efficiently record transactions, analyze costs, prepare budgets, and generate reports. In addition, CMAs can also use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to automate routine tasks such as data entry, invoice processing, variance analysis, and report preparation. AI helps in analyzing large volumes of financial data, identifying cost patterns, predicting future trends, and supporting better decision-making.
With the use of digital systems and AI, CMAs can reduce manual work, minimize errors, save time, and focus more on strategic planning and management sup

How AI Affects….

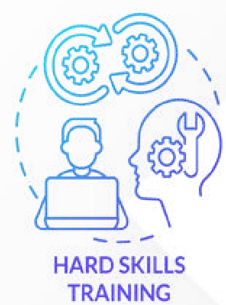
"Further, with the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the work of a Cost and Management Accountant becomes more advanced and efficient. AI-based systems can automatically capture and process financial data from invoices, bills, and reports, reducing manual data entry and human errors. AI tools help CMAs perform deep cost analysis by identifying hidden cost patterns, inefficiencies, and abnormal variances that may not be easily visible through traditional methods. Using predictive analytics, AI supports accurate forecasting and budgeting by analyzing historical data and market trends to estimate future costs and revenues.

AI-powered dashboards provide real-time insights and performance indicators, enabling CMAs to monitor operations continuously and take timely corrective actions. Additionally, AI assists in risk assessment, fraud detection, and scenario analysis, helping management make informed and strategic decisions. Thus, the integration of AI allows CMAs to save time, improve accuracy, and focus more on value-added and strategic roles within the organization.

Through the Use of AI, CMA's works are driven on automation, simultaneously AI replaces the role of CMA, that's why CMAs need to improve their digital skills.

Digital Skills that required for CMAs for implementing AI, Analytics & Automation:

- **Data Analytics and Visualization:** The ability to analyze large datasets and present insights clearly is paramount. Proficiency in tools like Microsoft Excel (advanced functions like Power Query, Pivot Tables, and macros), Power BI, and Tableau is essential. Understanding basic data analysis using programming languages like Python or R is also valuable.
- **ERP & Cloud Accounting Proficiency:** Familiarity with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems (e.g., SAP, Oracle, QuickBooks) and cloud-based accounting platforms (e.g., Xero, Zoho Books) allows for real-time access to financial data and seamless collaboration.
- **Automation and Robotic Process Automation (RPA):** CMAs should understand how to use RPA tools (like UiPath, Blue Prism) to automate repetitive tasks such as data entry, invoice processing, and bank reconciliations, freeing up time for higher-value analysis.
- **AI and Machine Learning (ML) Literacy:** While not required to be data scientists, CMAs must understand how AI/ML models work to interpret AI-generated insights, validate outputs, and manage associated risks. This includes using predictive analytics for better forecasting and planning.
- **Cybersecurity Awareness:** As financial data becomes digitized, understanding data protection best practices, recognizing phishing attacks, and ensuring compliance with data privacy regulations is crucial for safeguarding sensitive information.
- **Digital Collaboration Tools:** Proficiency in tools like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and cloud storage platforms (Google Drive, Dropbox) is necessary for effective communication and teamwork in modern hybrid work environments.
- **Model Governance and Ethical Reasoning:** Understanding the ethical implications of AI and helping to establish governance frameworks around its use ensures integrity and accountability in AI-driven decision-making.



How AI automize the role of CMAs:

Automation of Routine Accounting Work

- Data entry and voucher posting
- Cost allocation and reconciliation
- Invoice processing and payroll calculations

Faster Cost Analysis and Reporting

- Analyze large volumes of cost data in seconds
- Generate cost reports, variance analysis, and MIS reports automatically,
- Identify cost overruns and inefficiencies

Predictive Costing and Budgeting

AI uses historical and real-time data to:

- Forecast costs and revenues
- Prepare flexible budgets
- Predict future variances and risks

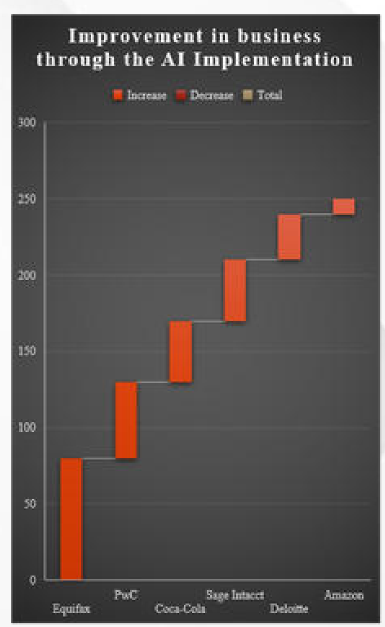
Decision Support Using Analytics

- Suggest cost-reduction strategies
- Optimize pricing and product mix
- Simulate "what-if" scenario

Continuous Monitoring and Control

AI systems:

- Monitor costs in real time
- Detect fraud, wastage, and abnormal variances
- Trigger alerts automatically



'AI empowers CMAs to work smarter, manage better, and decide faster.'

SHAPING TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS:THE ICMAI PATH TO FUTURE READINESS

Stage: CMA Foundation
Aditi Shahane
Registration No : WF2025071785

In an ever-changing economy, a popular saying captures the shift well: “AI won’t replace accountants, but accountants who know AI certainly will”. In an age where change is no longer occasional but constant, the definition of a “successful professional” is being rewritten. Technological advancements, evolving business models, sustainability imperatives, and global economic interdependence are reshaping the world of work at an unprecedented pace. In this dynamic environment, professional excellence is no longer defined solely by qualifications or years of experience, but by adaptability, ethical judgment, and the ability to create long-term value.

For Institutions like **The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of India (ICMAI)**, this shift presents both a responsibility and an opportunity: to shape not just qualified accountants, but **future-ready professionals** who can learn continuously, lead confidently, and level up consistently throughout their careers.

What does a future-ready professional mean today? Is it one’s ability to predict the future? Certainly not. A future-ready professional is not someone who possesses the ability to predict the future; rather, someone who is prepared to respond to it intelligently. Such a response requires a specific set of skills—ranging from continuous learning agility to ethical judgment and sustainability awareness within the organisational and societal contexts professionals operate in.

LEARN: Beyond Syllabus, Towards Lifelong Capability

Building future-ready professionals is not confined to the syllabus and classrooms; today, learning is no longer linear or limited to examinations. It is **iterative, interdisciplinary, and continuous**. Future-ready learning emphasises:

- Application over memorisation
- Case-based and industry-linked learning
- Exposure to real-world business challenges

For cost and management accountants, this includes:

- Data analytics and decision science
- Strategic cost management
- ESG, sustainability accounting, and integrated reporting
- Digital finance tools, ERP systems, and AI-assisted analysis

LEAD: From Functional Experts to Strategic Influencers

Leadership today is not restricted to designations. Every professional, irrespective of role or seniority, is expected to exercise leadership through decision-making, collaboration, and ethical responsibility.

For CMAs, leadership manifests in:

- Advising management on value creation
- Steering cost efficiency without compromising long-term sustainability
- Acting as governance and risk stewards

LEVEL UP: The Mindset of Continuous Evolution

In a volatile and uncertain world, static careers are becoming obsolete. The professionals who thrive are those who consistently **level up**—in skills, mindset, and impact.

For ICMAI members, levelling up may mean

- Transitioning from accounting to strategic finance
- Moving into consulting, leadership, or policy roles
- Contributing to nation-building through governance, compliance, and sustainable growth

To conclude, the volatile era demands recurring development incorporated within professionals through constant learning, enhanced leadership skills, as well as upgradation. "Building Future-Ready Professionals" is not a one-time initiative—it is a continuous commitment.

To **Learn** is to remain curious.
To **Lead** is to act with responsibility and vision.
To **Level** Up is to evolve with purpose.

As industries transform and uncertainties persist, professionals who embrace this triad of Learn. Lead. Level Up will not just survive change—they will shape it.

STAYING MOTIVATED AND DISCIPLINED - PERSONAL STRATEGIES THAT WORKED

Stage: CMA Final

Yashaswee Soni

Registration no. - 01231019893

Most beginners while pursuing CMA make a big mistake, that is to underestimate the fact that it is a professional degree, but in real this degree is not a sprint, it is a marathon. The person enrolled in this course will use the label of being a professional degree holder throughout their whole life, so it is important to be patient while not just studying but also earning this degree.

The most important part that people miss out on is that this is not a mere degree but a journey which does not end after clearing the final exams but in fact begins there.

The probability of a student failing their exams in the first attempt are much higher than passing them according to the statistics but failing the exams is an experience itself, even a failure in this degree teaches one patience and leads to character development which makes a true professional.

All I can guarantee is that this degree really needs the student to respect it and students most of the times learn it the hard way when they understand what it really takes to earn a professional degree like CMA.

As someone who has cleared both group for intermediate level, going through the study material provided by the institute is really helpful for conceptual clarity, after going through the study material next step is to practice as many previously asked questions that can be accessed from the institute website and do an analysis on important topics and how much weightage they hold.

The last cherry on top part of preparation is practicing the Model Question Papers which are also available on the institute website.

If there is more to practice that a student requires, workbooks for each subject and MCQ booklet as well on the institute website. Pursuing a professional degree gives the student a lot of space to build their own individuality and have their own perspective on seeking professionalism from the experience this degree.

There will be no regrets by the end of this degree, in fact there will be fulfilment and gratitude for the experience and how it shaped you and character, whether it is what the student learnt from failure or balancing work life with studies, it only adds to one's personality and life lessons.

Overall, it is not a degree that one should be afraid of pursuing, instead over the period of time learn to embrace the journey.

Last but not the least, learn to eliminate the comparison with anyone to avoid anxiety. Wishing good luck to everyone waiting for their results and a much better life ahead.

STAYING MOTIVATED AND DISCIPLINED:A KEY TO CMA SUCCESS

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Mayur Pareshbhai Bhalu

Registration No : 01222012930

Motivation and discipline play a very crucial role in the journey of a CMA student. The CMA course demands consistency, conceptual clarity, and smart working. While motivation gives us the push to start studying, discipline ensures that we continue even on days when motivation is low. Staying motivated and disciplined is not just helpful but essential for achieving success in professional courses like CMA.

(Example: Study Pressure, Mental Pressure, Time Management between Social, Personal, Student Life)

Understanding the Importance of Motivation and Discipline

Motivation encourages students to set goals and work toward them with enthusiasm. Discipline, on the other hand, is the ability to follow a routine, manage time effectively, and avoid distractions. Together, motivation and discipline form the foundation of consistent preparation.

Practical Ways to Stay Motivated

One of the most effective ways to stay motivated is to break the vast CMA syllabus into smaller and achievable parts. Small daily progress gradually leads to major success. Regular mock tests and solving past-term examination papers help students evaluate their preparation and boost confidence, which further enhances motivation.

Building Discipline in Daily Study Routine

Discipline is developed through habits and consistency. Creating a realistic study timetable and strictly following it helps in building discipline over time. Even studying for a fixed number of hours daily is more effective than irregular long study sessions.

Avoiding distractions such as excessive mobile usage and social media is also important. Simple techniques like maintaining a to-do list and studying in a dedicated space can significantly improve focus and discipline.

Balancing Motivation, Discipline, and Well-being

While staying disciplined, it is equally important to take care of mental and physical health. Short breaks, proper sleep, healthy food, and light exercise help maintain energy levels and prevent burnout. When students take care of themselves, they are more likely to stay motivated and disciplined for a longer period.

Conclusion

Staying motivated and disciplined is a continuous process that every CMA student must consciously practice. Motivation provides direction, while discipline ensures consistency. By setting clear goals, following a structured routine, and maintaining a positive mindset, CMA students can overcome challenges and move confidently toward success. With the right balance of motivation and discipline, achieving the CMA dream becomes not just possible, but certain.

STAYING MOTIVATED AND DISCIPLINED: PERSONAL STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Stage: CMA Intermediate
Krutika .M. Poojary
Registration No: 01222016469

I'm driven by financial success, family, and a fulfilling life, staying motivated and disciplined is key. Here's what works:

1. Set Clear Goals

Define what success means to you – financially, personally, and professionally. Break down big goals into smaller, achievable tasks.

2. Find Your Why

Your motivation stems from:

- Financial stability
- Family's well-being
- Personal growth
- Happiness

3. Create a Routine

Establish a daily routine that aligns with your goals. Prioritize tasks, and stay organized.

4. Track Progress

Monitor your progress, celebrate small wins, and adjust your strategy as needed.

5. Overcome Obstacles

Life will throw challenges, but with determination and resilience, you'll overcome them. Stay focused on your goals.

6. Stay Positive

Remind yourself that difficulties are temporary, but success is lasting. Visualize your happy, successful life – it fuels your motivation!

WHAT IS THE UNION BUDGET AND HOW TO UNDERSTAND IT

Stage: CMA Final
Sakshi V. Kulkarni
Registration No : 01201081604

Every year, on 1st February, the term ''Union Budget'' dominates newspapers, television debates, social media, and professional discussions. For CMA students, the Union Budget is not just a current affairs topic, it is a practical document that connects economics, taxation, public finance, and strategic decision-making. Understanding the Union Budget in a structured and simplified manner helps CMAs build strong analytical and professional competence.

What Is the Union Budget?

The Union Budget is the annual financial statement of the Government of India presented under Article 112 of the Indian Constitution. It outlines the government's estimated receipts and expenditures for a financial year, which runs from 1st April to 31st March.

In simple words, the Union Budget is the government's plan for:

- How it will earn money (Revenue)
- How it will spend money (Expenditure)
- How it will manage deficits and borrowings
- Which sectors will be prioritised for growth and welfare

The Budget is presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in Parliament and must be approved by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha before implementation.

Key Components of the Union Budget

To understand the Union Budget clearly, we should focus on its major components:

- **Revenue Receipts**

These include tax revenues (Income Tax, GST, Customs Duty, etc.) and non-tax revenues (dividends from PSUs, fees, interest receipts). For CMAs, this section links directly with taxation and public revenue concepts.

- **Capital Receipts**

These consist of borrowings, recovery of loans, and disinvestment proceeds. Understanding capital receipts helps CMAs analyse fiscal sustainability and government funding strategies.

- **Revenue Expenditure**

Expenditure incurred for day-to-day functioning of the government, such as salaries, subsidies, pensions, and interest payments. This reflects the government's welfare orientation.

- **Capital Expenditure**

Spending on infrastructure, highways, railways, defence equipment and long-term assets. Capital expenditure is crucial for economic growth and employment generation.

- **Fiscal Deficit**

Fiscal deficit represents the gap between total expenditure and total receipts excluding borrowings. CMAs must track this number carefully, as it indicates the government's financial discipline and macroeconomic stability.

Types of Budget Documents

The Union Budget is not a single document but a set of documents, including:

- Budget Speech
- Annual Financial Statement
- Finance Bill
- Expenditure Profile
- Receipt Budget

For CMA students, the Budget Speech and Finance Bill are especially important, as they highlight policy direction and tax amendments.

How Should a CMA Student Understand the Union Budget?

Rather than memorising figures, CMAs should adopt an analytical approach:

- Focus on Policy Direction, Not Just Numbers

Understand why allocations have increased or decreased for sectors like MSMEs, infrastructure, healthcare, or education.

- Link Budget Provisions with Syllabus

Concepts from Direct Tax, Indirect Tax, Corporate Laws, Strategic Financial Management, and Economics often reflect in the Budget.

- Analyse Impact on Industry and Business

CMAs should evaluate how tax changes, incentives, and capital spending affect companies, costs, profitability, and compliance.

- Track Long-Term Vision

Look at how the Budget aligns with national goals such as Make in India, Digital India, sustainability, and fiscal consolidation.

Why the Union Budget Matters for CMAs

For a CMA, the Union Budget is a real-life application of financial planning and control at the national level. It sharpens skills in:

- Financial analysis
- Cost benefit evaluation
- Strategic thinking
- Policy interpretation

Whether working in industry, practice, consultancy, or public finance, CMAs are expected to understand Budget implications and advise stakeholders accordingly.

Conclusion

The Union Budget is more than an annual event; it is a reflection of the government's economic vision and priorities. For CMA students, understanding the Budget in a simple yet analytical manner builds confidence and professional readiness. By reading the Budget with curiosity and linking it to CMA concepts, students can transform a complex document into a powerful learning tool. For a CMA, the Union Budget is not just to be read, it is to be analysed, interpreted, and applied.

TECHNICAL TUTORIALS EVERY COMMERCE STUDENT MUST KNOW & INTERNAL AUDIT CHECKLIST, STOCK VERIFICATION, TDS, ITR FOR SALARIED PERSONS & POWER OF COMPOUNDING.

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Mithilesh Prashant Pathak

Registration No: 01222014656

Introduction

For many commerce students, learning often begins and ends with completing the syllabus. Exams become the main focus, and practical understanding takes a back seat. However, when students step into internships, articleship, or corporate roles, they quickly realise that real work demands more than theoretical knowledge. Concepts such as internal audit, stock verification, TDS, income tax return filing, and personal finance are not just academic topics they are everyday professional requirements. For CMA students especially, these technical areas form the backbone of practical decision-making and professional confidence.

Internal Audit Checklist, Understanding the System, Not Just the Numbers.

Internal audit is often misunderstood as a routine checking activity. In reality, it is about understanding how an organisation functions internally and whether its systems are reliable.

An internal audit checklist generally includes:

1. Verification of accounting records and supporting documents.
2. Reviewing whether transactions are properly authorised.
3. Checking compliance with internal policies and statutory requirements.
4. Evaluating internal controls and identifying risk areas.

For a commerce or CMA student, internal audit develops analytical thinking. It teaches students to look beyond figures and understand the processes that create those figures. This ability becomes extremely valuable in management and decision-making roles.

Stock Verification, More Than Physical Counting.

Stock verification is a critical activity that directly impacts profitability and cost control. Many students see it as simple physical counting, but its importance goes much deeper.

Stock verification involves:

1. Matching physical inventory with stock records.
2. Identifying damaged, obsolete, or slow-moving items.
3. Ensuring correct valuation methods are followed.
4. Detecting shortages, excess stock, or pilferage.

When inventory records are inaccurate, profits may appear healthy on paper but not in reality. Understanding stock verification helps students realise how inventory management influences business performance and financial reporting.

TDS, A Practical Introduction to Tax Compliance.

Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) is one of the most practical taxation concepts students encounter early in their careers. It represents the government's system of collecting tax at the point of income generation.

Key aspects of TDS include:

1. Understanding the roles of deductor and deductee.
2. Knowing applicable rates for different types of payments.
3. Timely deposit of TDS and filing of returns

Learning TDS helps students understand compliance responsibility and builds a strong foundation in practical taxation, which is essential in finance and accounting roles.

ITR Filing for Salaried Persons ,Building Financial Awareness.

Filing an Income Tax Return (ITR) is a responsibility that many people delay due to lack of awareness. For salaried individuals, the process becomes simple once it is properly understood.

Basic steps include:

1. Using Form 16 issued by the employer.
2. Calculating total income and eligible deductions.
3. Selecting the correct ITR form.
4. Verifying the return electronically.

Understanding ITR filing gives students confidence in managing their own finances and helps them assist others with clarity and accuracy.

Personal Finance and the Power of Compounding

Personal finance is rarely taught formally, yet it plays a major role in long-term stability and success. Learning how to manage income, expenses, and savings at an early stage makes a significant difference.

The concept of compounding highlights how small, consistent investments grow substantially over time. For students, this lesson is invaluable it encourages discipline, long-term thinking, and financial independence. Starting early matters more than investing large amounts later.

Conclusion.

Technical tutorials are not just tools for clearing exams, they shape a student's professional mindset. Concepts like internal audit, stock verification, TDS, ITR filing, and personal finance help commerce students transition smoothly from classroom learning to real-world application. For CMA students, these skills act as a bridge between theory and practice, building confidence, competence, and long-term professional value.

GST ANNUAL RETURN - A COMPLIANCE TOOL THAT CREATES ANXIETY

Stage: CMA Final

Suyog Malpure

Registration No: 01201075695

GST Annual Return was introduced to bring closure, transparency, and self-assessment. In reality, GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C have become one of the most litigated and misunderstood compliance requirements under GST law. Instead of simplifying tax compliance, the annual return has multiplied reconciliation issues, increased professional risk, and placed businesses under continuous fear of notices. This article highlights all major flaws, loopholes, and systemic issues in GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C, from the lens of law, practice, and human experience.

1. Auto Population without Accountability

GSTR-9 is automatically filled with data from GSTR-1, GSTR-3B, and GSTR-2A/2B, creating the appearance that the numbers are trustworthy and system-verified. In practice, this assumption often fails. Auto-filled values frequently do not reconcile with the taxpayer's books of accounts or even with the monthly returns actually filed, creating confusion at the time of annual consolidation. One of the major reasons is that amendments made in earlier periods are not properly captured or reflected, either due to technical limitations or system design gaps. In several cases, corrections legally permitted under the GST law remain invisible in the auto-populated annual return. Despite these limitations, the entire responsibility of correctness is shifted to the taxpayer, who has no control over the source data or the portal logic. This results in a peculiar situation where the law allows correction and rectification, but the system does not facilitate it. Instead of simplifying compliance, such auto-population creates a compliance trap, where taxpayers are compelled to accept system-generated inconsistencies or face future scrutiny, defeating the very objective of ease of doing business under GST.

2. No Revision Allowed

Under GST law, once the annual return is filed, it becomes final and irreversible, regardless of whether the mistake arose from clerical oversight, system-generated auto-population, interpretation differences, or late availability of information. This rigidity is particularly harsh because GSTR-9 is a consolidation of an entire financial year, involving thousands of invoices, multiple amendments, and continuous law changes. Unlike Income tax returns, where revision is permitted within a statutory time limit, GST Annual Return provides no statutory window for correction. As a result, taxpayers and professionals are forced to choose between delaying filing due to fear of errors or filing with incomplete certainty, knowing that any mistake may later trigger notices, audits, or allegations of misreporting. This design contradicts the principles of natural justice and voluntary compliance, as the law expects perfect accuracy but denies a lawful opportunity to correct genuine mistakes. Instead of encouraging transparency, the no revision rule turns GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C into high risk declarations, where honesty often leads to increased scrutiny rather than closure.

3. Disclosure without Rectification Mechanism

GSTR-9 mandates taxpayers to disclose errors, omissions, short payments of tax, excess availment of input tax credit, and other discrepancies relating to earlier periods, thereby projecting the annual return as a tool for voluntary and honest self-assessment. However, a fundamental flaw lies in the fact that the return allows disclosure but does not allow rectification. While the taxpayer is compelled to report past mistakes in various tables of GSTR-9, the system does not provide an integrated mechanism within the return to correct those mistakes by paying additional tax or reversing ineligible credit. Any such adjustment must be carried out separately through Form DRC-03, detached from the annual return itself. This non integrated approach breaks the natural compliance cycle of "identify–correct–close" and leaves discrepancies open to interpretation by tax authorities. As a result, taxpayers who act in good faith by making full disclosures often expose themselves to future notices, audits, and demands, even after voluntarily paying tax. Instead of promoting corrective compliance, this structure discourages transparency and undermines the objective of GST as a self-assessed, trust based tax system.

4. Forced Reconciliation Between Multiple Data Sets (GSTR-9C)

GSTR-9C requires taxpayers to reconcile figures reported in GST returns with those appearing in the audited financial statements, presenting this exercise as a straightforward mathematical reconciliation. In reality, the data sets being compared are fundamentally different in nature and purpose. Financial statements are prepared based on accounting standards, accrual principles, and commercial understanding of income and expenses, whereas GST returns are governed by supply based taxation, time of supply rules, valuation provisions, and specific statutory classifications. Differences commonly arise due to advances received, unbilled revenue, credit notes issued under Section 34, year end provisions, foreign exchange fluctuations, and non-GST income reflected in the profit and loss account. Despite these inherent differences, GSTR-9C expects near perfect reconciliation, without providing standardized guidance or safe harbours for acceptable variances. This forces taxpayers and certifying professionals to rely on explanations rather than corrections, increasing subjectivity and audit exposure. The result is a compliance exercise that focuses more on defending differences than on identifying actual tax leakages, making GSTR-9C a technically complex and litigation-prone requirement rather than a facilitative reconciliation statement

5. Ambiguity in Turnover Reconciliation

Turnover reconciliation under GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C remains one of the most ambiguous and disputed areas of GST compliance. While the annual return expects taxpayers to reconcile turnover as per books of accounts with turnover declared in GST returns, the law does not prescribe a uniform or standardised method for such reconciliation. Differences commonly arise due to advances received and adjusted in subsequent periods, credit notes issued under Section 34 of the CGST Act, deemed supplies, inter branch transactions, non GST income reflected in the profit and loss account, foreign exchange fluctuations, and year end accounting adjustments. Further complexity is added where certain incomes are disclosed in financial statements for accounting purposes but are outside the scope of GST, yet still form part of book turnover. Despite these structural differences, taxpayers are expected to provide exact explanations in GSTR-9C, often without clear legal benchmarks or tolerances. This lack of clarity results in subjective reporting, inconsistent professional practices, and varied departmental interpretations, increasing the risk of scrutiny even where no tax loss exists. Instead of serving as a tool for transparency, ambiguous turnover reconciliation turns into a defensive compliance exercise, where taxpayers must justify accounting realities rather than address actual tax discrepancies.

6. ITC Reporting - The Major source of Litigation

Input Tax Credit (ITC) reporting in GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C is widely regarded as the most complex and litigation prone aspect of the GST Annual Return. The return requires taxpayers to segregate ITC into multiple categories such as eligible credit, ineligible credit, reversed credit, reclaimed credit, and credit lapsed due to time limits, across several overlapping tables. This complexity is compounded by frequent amendments in GST law, evolving interpretations of Section 16 and Section 17(5) of the CGST Act, and continuous changes in return formats. Practical challenges arise where ITC is availed based on tax invoices but does not appear in GSTR-2A or GSTR-2B due to vendor non compliance, delayed filing, or technical mismatches—factors completely outside the taxpayer's control. Additionally, year end provisions, common credit reversals, blocked credits, and partial business use further distort annual ITC figures. Despite these realities, GSTR-9 expects precise classification and reconciliation, leaving little room for practical judgment. Even minor inconsistencies in ITC reporting often trigger notices, audits, and demands, turning the annual return into a high risk declaration rather than a compliance summary. Instead of facilitating clarity, the current ITC reporting framework increases uncertainty and litigation, placing an excessive burden on honest taxpayers and professionals alike.

7. GSTR-2A / 2B Dependency Without Legal Backing

One of the most controversial and structurally weak aspects of Annual return is the excessive reliance placed on GSTR-2A and GSTR-2B for reconciliation of Input Tax Credit. These statements are auto generated, dynamic in nature, and entirely dependent on supplier compliance, yet they are neither returns filed by the taxpayer nor documents recognised as self assessed returns under the CGST Act. Despite this, annual return reporting and audit expectations increasingly treat 2A and 2B as the final benchmark for ITC eligibility. This creates a serious compliance imbalance, as genuine credit availed on the strength of valid tax invoices may not reflect in these statements due to delayed filing, errors, or non compliance by vendors, factors completely beyond the recipient's control. The GST law originally allowed ITC based on possession of invoice and receipt of goods or services, but the annual return framework has gradually shifted the burden of vendor default onto the recipient, without corresponding statutory safeguards. As a result, taxpayers are compelled to explain or even reverse legitimate credits merely because of mismatches in system generated statements. This approach not only contradicts the foundational principles of GST but also fuels avoidable litigation, turning informational statements into quasi determinative tools without clear legislative backing

8. Disproportionate Professional Liability in GSTR-9C Certification

GSTR-9C places a significant burden on the certifying professional by requiring certification of reconciliation between books of accounts and GST returns, even though the professional has no control over the original data, portal functioning, or historical filings. The certifier relies entirely on records provided by the taxpayer and data generated by the GST system, yet bears substantial exposure during departmental audits and investigations. Any discrepancy, even if arising from interpretational differences or system limitations, is often questioned as a professional lapse. This creates a situation where risk far outweighs authority, discouraging professionals from accepting certification assignments and increasing compliance costs for businesses. Instead of recognising the limited role of the certifier, the framework implicitly shifts enforcement responsibility onto professionals, which is neither legally balanced nor practically sustainable.

9. One size fits all approach

GSTR-9 follows a uniform format irrespective of the size, scale, or complexity of the taxpayer's business. Small and medium enterprises, with limited transactions and minimal tax exposure, are required to comply with the same extensive reporting and reconciliation requirements as large corporates. There is no meaningful materiality threshold or simplified reporting option for low risk taxpayers. This approach significantly increases compliance costs for smaller businesses, often requiring professional assistance disproportionate to their tax liability. As a result, GST Annual Return becomes a procedural burden rather than a value adding exercise, contradicting the objective of ease of doing business.

10. Late Fees & Penalties – Disproportionate and Automatic

The levy of late fees for delayed filing of GSTR-9 under Section 47 of the CGST Act operates mechanically, without considering whether any tax is actually payable. Even nil liability or loss making taxpayers are subjected to mandatory late fees, which continue to accumulate until filing. This automatic and non discretionary approach ignores genuine hardship, technical issues, and the complexity involved in annual reconciliation. The fear of penalties often forces taxpayers to file returns prematurely, increasing the likelihood of errors. Instead of encouraging timely and accurate compliance, the penalty framework prioritises form over substance.

11. Ever Changing Formats & Instructions

Every financial year witnesses changes in GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C formats, instructions, and reporting logic, often introduced close to due dates. Clarifications are issued through FAQs, press releases, and portal advisories rather than through statutory amendments, creating interpretational uncertainty. Taxpayers and professionals are compelled to comply with evolving administrative interpretations rather than settled law, leading to inconsistent reporting across years. This lack of stability erodes confidence in the compliance framework and makes historical comparison and consistency nearly impossible.

12. Increased Notices Based on Annual Return Disclosures

Data reported in GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C is increasingly used by tax authorities as a risk assessment and scrutiny selection tool. Disclosures of past errors, reversals, or explanations made in good faith often become the basis for issuing notices such as ASMT-10 or audit communications. Ironically, taxpayers who make full and transparent disclosures face higher scrutiny, while those who under report or delay filing may temporarily escape attention. This dynamic discourages voluntary compliance and creates a perception that honesty attracts risk rather than closure.

13. Absence of Time Bound Closure

Perhaps the most fundamental flaw in the GST Annual Return framework is the absence of any mechanism that provides finality to compliance. Filing GSTR-9 or GSTR-9C does not result in acceptance, acknowledgment, or closure by the department. There is no defined time limit within which discrepancies must be addressed, leaving taxpayers exposed to future scrutiny for several years. Without certainty or closure, the annual return fails to serve its intended purpose as a concluding compliance document. Instead, it becomes a permanent data repository for future litigation, undermining trust in the GST system.

Conclusion

Every filed GST Annual Return is the product of human diligence where a business owner, finance & Taxation team managing complex data, and a professional bearing statutory and ethical responsibility in complex regulatory environment. Over time, the GST Annual Return has gradually shifted its focus away from enabling business growth and certainty, and towards defensive compliance driven by fear of scrutiny. Although GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C were introduced as instruments of transparency and self assessment, their present structure has made them rigid, technically complex, and anxiety inducing.

The absence of revision mechanisms, complicated ITC reporting, over reliance on system generated data, and lack of legal finality have diluted their original intent. What the framework now requires is meaningful reform a statutory revision facility, simplified and legally sound ITC reporting, primacy of law over portal logic, and a renewed emphasis on trust based compliance. Until such reforms are implemented, GST Annual Return will continue to be perceived not as a compliance benefit, but as a burdensome obligation that prioritises caution over confidence.

INTERNSHIP DIARIES: LEARNING PROFESSIONAL LIFE ONE DAY AT A TIME

Stage: CMA Final

Lavanya Kalidas Giram

Registration No : 01241056050

Hi! I am Lavanya Giram, a future CMA, and this internship marks my first real bridge between academic learning and professional responsibility. For me, this journey as a CMA article has been especially meaningful, as it is both my first experience in the professional world and a practical extension of my academic knowledge. Having cleared CMA Inter before starting my articleship, I stepped into this phase with clarity and a strong foundation. I am in the final year of my graduation and managing my studies alongside, the internship has been shaping my understanding of how professional life works—one working day at a time. Each day brings new challenges and opportunities to learn, allowing me to connect theory with practice in a tangible way.

I began my articleship at a mid-sized professional firm, where learning comes from active participation rather than passive observation. My work spans GST compliance, accounting assignments, income tax matters, and GST litigation. Engaging in these areas has provided hands-on exposure, helping me tackle real challenges, prioritize tasks, and develop practical problem-solving skills. Balancing multiple assignments alongside my studies has strengthened my time management, decision-making, and discipline. Working and earning a stipend has also taught me valuable lessons about financial responsibility, money management, and planning investments for myself—skills that are just as important as technical knowledge. The firm's diverse environment has offered a unique perspective on how taxation, compliance, and accounting are interconnected, and has encouraged early responsibility, adaptability, and a solution-oriented mindset—qualities essential for any future corporate role. Beyond technical and financial learnings, the internship has contributed significantly to personal growth. Daily collaboration with colleagues, handling dynamic tasks, and performing under pressure have improved my professional communication, teamwork, and confidence, showing that learning continues beyond textbooks and examinations.

Overall, my internship experience has been both challenging and rewarding. Balancing graduation, studies, and articleship requires focus, discipline, and careful planning, but the early exposure to professional life has been invaluable. Each day adds new lessons, gradually shaping me into a more aware, responsible, and prepared CMA aspirant. I would encourage students to seek practical experience early, as it builds not only technical knowledge but also professional skills, discipline, and confidence. My internship diary is still being written, but each day adds a new lesson—shaping me into a more aware, responsible, and future-ready CMA aspirant. And honestly, some days it's a little chaotic, a little fun, and a lot of learning!

FROM CAMPUS TO CORPORATE – INTERNSHIP DIARIES

Stage: CMA Final
Shruti Malviya
Registration No :01222010932

Practical training stands out as the most defining part of my CMA journey. Shifting from classroom theories to actual corporate work, I've seen how what we study on paper turns into real-world decisions. Right now, I'm doing my articleship in Costing, Audit, Finance, and Accounts. Every day brings a new lesson about how organizations truly run.

Learning Beyond One Department

Early in my training, I picked up a crucial lesson: never box yourself into just one kind of work. On the surface, costing, accounts, finance, MIS, and audits look like separate fields. In reality, they're all tangled together.

Here's a snapshot of what I've been working on:

Cost audits and variance analysis
Ledger reconciliations and scrutiny
MIS reports on monthly performance
Internal audit checks and documentation

Every task, big or small, adds value. The more I try, the more confident and versatile I become. Practical training forces you to adapt, and that adaptability is what makes a strong CMA.

Boss Lessons – Real Mentorship in Action

A huge part of my growth comes from my boss. His mentorship shaped my approach to work. He always gives us enough to challenge us, but not to overwhelm. His mantra is simple:

"Listen carefully, observe deeply, and learn by doing."

He never hands us easy answers. We get to figure things out for ourselves, and he steps in only when we really need it. Because of this, I've learned to:

Own my work
Pay attention to details
Solve problems before asking for help
Manage my time and responsibilities
Trust my own judgment

You won't find these lessons in any textbook. They come only from real experience and honest guidance.

Understanding the Practical Training Scheme – Step by Step

The CMA Practical Training Scheme is built to spark real change in students. Here's how the journey plays out:

- Get familiar with the program—its duration, logbook requirements, and reporting.
- Set learning goals: costing skills, audit techniques, MIS, financial analysis.
- Start with induction—learn the systems, tools, and company routines.
- Rotate through different departments: costing, accounts, finance, MIS, audit.
- Begin with simple work like reconciliations, vouchers, schedules, and data checks.
- Take on more complex tasks: cost sheets, variances, budgets, audit sampling.
- Keep a logbook, document new skills and lessons.
- Ask for feedback often—short reviews help you improve.
- Tackle a capstone project, maybe a costing study, MIS dashboard, or audit assignment.
- At the end, reflect, pull together your new skills, build your portfolio, and finish the scheme with confidence.

This structure makes sure we don't just know the theory. By the end, we're genuinely ready for the real world.

The Road Ahead

This articleship shapes me every single day—my analytical skills, my discipline, my sense of who I am as a professional. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that the best learning happens when you step outside your comfort zone. You try, you make mistakes, you improve, and you try again. This move from campus life to corporate reality hasn't just given me technical knowledge—it's built the confidence I need to take on real responsibility as a future CMA.

PRACTICAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES AS A CMA STUDENT: A VALUABLE LEARNING JOURNEY

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Mauli Doshi

Registration No: 01222016313

Practical training is an important part of the CMA course that helps students connect theory with real-world practice. It gives exposure to areas like costing, accounting, taxation and finance allowing students to understand how these concepts work in actual business settings. Through this training students gain practical skills, build confidence and develop a professional attitude, which prepares them for a successful career as a CMA.

As a CMA student, I have realized that classroom learning and practical exposure are very different. In the classroom, we mainly focus on theory, formulas, and solving problems on paper, which helps in understanding concepts. However, during practical training, I see how these concepts are applied in real work situations like preparing cost sheets, handling accounts, or analyzing financial data. This hands-on experience makes learning more meaningful, improves my confidence, and helps me understand how businesses actually operate.

My practical training as a CMA student, one of the most interesting experiences was working on cost accounting and preparing cost sheets. In the classroom, we learn about various costs like material, labor and overheads but seeing them in a real business environment was completely different. I had the opportunity to collect data from different departments, analyze it carefully, and then prepare detailed cost sheets. It was fascinating to see how every expense whether small or large impacts the total cost of a product.

Working on cost sheets also helped me understand the importance of accuracy and attention to detail. I learned to classify costs correctly, calculate total and per-unit costs and even identify areas where the company could save money. This practical exposure made me realize how management uses cost information to make important decisions like pricing products or controlling expenses.

I particularly enjoyed comparing theoretical examples from my books with actual company data. It not only strengthened my understanding of cost accounting concepts but also gave me confidence to handle real-life accounting tasks in the future.

I got chance to learn how to work with GST returns which was a valuable skill-building experience. In theory, we study GST rules and types of tax, but actually preparing returns in a real business setting taught me a lot about applying that knowledge. I learned how to organize invoices, classify transactions correctly and calculate the tax accurately for filing purposes.

This experience helped me develop important skills like attention to detail, patience and accuracy. Even small mistakes in GST entries can create problems, so I learned the importance of double-checking my work. It also taught me how different taxes like CGST, SGST, and IGST are applied and how transactions are recorded systematically in accounting software.

Facing real work challenges during practical training taught me how to manage pressure and meet deadlines effectively. Unlike classroom studies, where tasks are guided and paced the office environment required completing assignments within specific timelines. Each task, whether preparing cost sheets or assisting in accounts, came with its own urgency and importance.

This experience helped me learn to prioritize work, stay focused and plan the day carefully. Breaking larger tasks into smaller steps made them easier to handle and maintaining a calm approach was essential when multiple deadlines overlapped. Handling these responsibilities improved confidence and discipline, making it easier to complete tasks efficiently.

Interacting with clients during practical training that helpedPractical training also showed that knowledge alone is not enough; the ability to work under pressure, think clearly and meet deadlines is equally important in a professional environment. Overall, learning to manage work pressure and deadlines was a valuable experience, helping develop essential skills that will be useful in future career growth.

Practical training became much more valuable because of the guidance and support from seniors and professionals. They shared their knowledge, explained procedures clearly, and showed how tasks are handled in real work situations. Watching their approach to work and receiving feedback helped me improve my skills and understand practical applications better.

Their mentorship also taught me important workplace habits, such as staying organized, meeting deadlines, and maintaining accuracy. I learned how to handle challenges calmly and approach tasks in a professional manner. This support made learning easier, boosted my confidence, and gave me a clear idea of how to perform effectively in a real work environment.

me build confidence and develop a professional attitude. Communicating with clients, understanding their requirements and assisting with their queries made me more comfortable. Completing tasks accurately and on time while addressing client needs boosted my confidence and taught me how to manage responsibilities independently.

At the same time, I learned the importance of professionalism maintaining polite communication, being punctual and presenting information clearly. These experiences helped me understand how to interact effectively with clients and meet professional standards in a corporate environment.

Overall, practical training was not just about gaining technical knowledge. It was a journey of skill-building, personal growth, and professional development. From cost accounting and GST to time management, client handling, and work ethics, every task added value to my learning. It enhanced my confidence, improved my communication, and shaped my attitude to meet real-world challenges effectively.

In conclusion, practical training serves as a foundation for a successful career. It provides exposure to real business environments, develops critical skills and prepares students to face professional challenges with competence and confidence. The lessons learned during this period go beyond textbooks, making practical training an indispensable part of the CMA journey.

STUDY SMART: PRACTICAL TIPS & TECHNIQUES FOR CMA (ICMAI) STUDENTS

Stage: CMA Final

Prathik M

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1. Start with a structured plan

Break the syllabus into weekly targets mapped to the exam timetable. Allocate subjects by weightage and personal weakness: heavier or unfamiliar topics get longer blocks early on. Use a single master schedule (digital or printed) and update it weekly — clarity reduces wasted time.

2. Build concepts before notes

For technical papers (costing, tax, law), prioritize understanding principles and logic over memorizing lines. Read the Institute's study material and standard textbooks to form a mental model (how/why a method works). Once clear, create concise concept notes: these will be your revision engine.

3. Use active recall and spaced repetition

Replace passive re-reading with active tasks: explain a concept aloud, solve a problem without notes, or use flashcards for key formulas and provisions. Space reviews — revisit topics after 3, 10 and 30 days — to move knowledge from short- to long-term memory.

4. Practice with purpose — timed and analytical

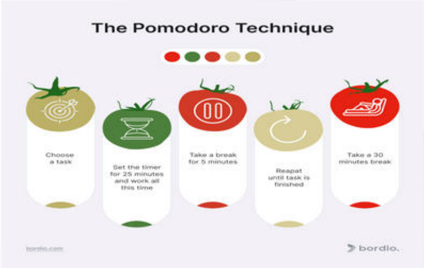
Solve past papers, RTPs and mock tests under exam conditions. Time management is as important as technical accuracy: practice completing sections within the allotted time. After each paper, perform a quick error-analysis — categorize mistakes into conceptual gaps, careless errors, and time/formatting issues — then plan corrective practice.

5. Prioritize "problem zones" with micro-sessions

Identify topics that cost you marks (transfer pricing calculations, cost reconciliation, tax adjustments) and assign daily micro-sessions (25–40 minutes) focused on those areas. Small, consistent exposure outperforms rare marathon sessions.

6. Adopt the Pomodoro + test cycle

Study in focused sprints (e.g., 25 minutes), followed by brief recall (5 minutes) and a short test (10–15 minutes). Repeat cycles and take a longer break after four cycles. This preserves concentration and converts study into verifiable learning



7. Consolidate with cheat-sheets and formula banks

Create one-page summaries per subject with core concepts, common journal entries, formulae, and statutory limits. These are invaluable during the last 2–3 weeks and for quick pre-exam refreshers.

8. Maintain exam stamina and routine

Simulate exam days occasionally: sit a full paper, practice handwriting and answer presentation. Maintain sleep hygiene, regular meals and light exercise — cognitive performance falls sharply with chronic sleep loss.

9. Use peer discussion and teaching

Explaining tricky topics to peers or juniors reveals hidden gaps and reinforces memory. Peer groups also help with discipline and sharing solved questions or interpretations of amendments.

10. Keep calm, update with amendments, and focus on marks

Always cross-check the latest Finance Act/amendments and ICMAI notifications for statutory changes. Prioritize topics by marks and past trends — cover high-yield areas comprehensively.

Conclusion

Studying smart is ultimately about using time, energy, and effort in ways that create the highest academic return. For a demanding course like Cost and Management Accountancy, the difference between average preparation and effective preparation lies in strategic planning, concept-focused learning, consistent revision, and a disciplined testing routine. By combining methods such as active recall, spaced repetition, structured timetables, and exam-oriented practice, you create a study system that not only enhances retention but also builds real confidence. With the right approach, every chapter becomes manageable, every mock test becomes a stepping-stone, and every revision cycle brings you closer to your goal. When pursued with commitment and smart techniques, success in ICMAI examinations becomes not just achievable but truly well-earned.

STUDY SMART: PROVEN TECHNIQUES FROM RANKERS AND FACULTY (2025)

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Animesh Singh Parihar

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Success in 2025 is no longer about the number of hours spent at a desk; it is about the efficiency of those hours. Educational experts and top rankers emphasize moving away from passive reading—which results in only about 10% retention—toward evidence-based frameworks that work with the brain's natural learning processes.

1. Active Recall: The Ranker's Secret

Rankers consistently replace re-reading with Active Recall. This involves forcing the brain to retrieve information from memory without looking at notes.

The Brain Dump: After a session, write down everything you remember on a blank sheet of paper.
Self-Testing: Use flashcards or create your own questions. Research shows this can boost retention by up to 51% compared to passive methods.

2. Spaced Repetition for Long-Term Memory

Cramming leads to rapid forgetting. Faculty recommend Spaced Repetition, which involves reviewing material at increasing intervals (e.g., 1 day, 3 days, 1 week, and 1 month later). Digital tools like Anki or Quizlet automate these schedules to interrupt the "forgetting curve" just before a memory fades.

3. The Feynman Technique: Teaching to Learn

A hallmark of top performers is the ability to simplify complex topics. The Feynman Technique requires you to explain a concept in plain English as if teaching a beginner. If you hit a roadblock or must use jargon, you have identified a gap in your own understanding that needs further study.

4. Advanced Time Management: Beyond the Schedule

The Pomodoro 2.0: Use the Pomodoro Technique (25 minutes of focus, 5-minute break) to maintain concentration and prevent burnout.

Chronotype Optimization: Faculty suggest aligning your most difficult subjects with your "peak cognitive hours," typically between 9–11 AM or 3–5 PM, depending on your individual internal clock.

Deep Work Blocks: Schedule 60–90 minute distraction-free "Deep Work" sessions in a dedicated environment to build cognitive stamina.

5. Multi-Sensory Organization

Dual Coding: Enhance memory by pairing words with visuals. Use diagrams, flowcharts, or Mind Mapping software to create two distinct memory pathways—one verbal and one visual.
Cornell Note-Taking: Organize lecture notes into three sections: a main notes area, a cue column for key terms, and a summary section at the bottom for quick revision.

6. The "Reflect-Review-Refine" (RRR) Routine

High-performing students in 2025 treat their studies like a system. Use a monthly RRR cycle:
Reflect: What went well this month?

Review: Which subjects are still weak based on Academic Analytics (test scores/submission trends)?
Refine: Adjust your study habits for the following month based on data, not just feelings.

By integrating these strategies, you shift from a passive consumer of information to an active architect of your own knowledge.

These articles provide proven techniques for active recall, spaced repetition, and time management to help you study more effectively.

THE EXAM PLANNING 101 - IDEAL SCHEDULES AND EXECUTION STRATEGIES

Stage: CMA Intermediate

Sneha Soni

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Abstract

This article explores the principles of efficient exam planning and highlights the importance of a systematic, strategic approach to academic success. In today's demanding educational environment, students often face erratic routines and ineffective preparation. A structured roadmap enables learners to manage time strategically, prioritize tasks and engage in focused study, reducing procrastination and anxiety. By fostering disciplined, proactive habits, this framework not only enhances exam performance but also cultivates lifelong learning skills.

Introduction

Initiating exam preparation is often the most difficult step and many students delay it until the pressure becomes unavoidable. This postponement creates several long-term challenges, such as irregular study routines and a lack of structured learning strategies. Consequently, students experience stress, confusion and exam anxiety even before their preparation truly begins. Poor planning further disrupts their progress, resulting in disorganised study patterns and weaker performance. Moreover, students who struggle in specific subjects often fail to devote focused time to those areas, leading to widening academic gaps and reduced confidence.This underscores the crucial impors. This article therefore outlines key strategies and practical frameworks designed to help students make their exam preparation more efficient, disciplined and result-oriented.

Cognitive excellence framework

Effective exam preparation begins with a meticulously designed timetable, prioritizing weaker subjects and allocating time according to topic complexity. This targeted approach ensures focused learning, consistent progress and maximized cognitive efficiency. Techniques such as Pomodoro, Spaced Repetition, Active Recall and the Feynman Technique can further enhance preparation, making study sessions more productive and retention more effective. Integrating brief breaks and restorative leisure is vital to maintain mental acuity, prevent fatigue and optimize study efficiency. A realistic and flexible study plan accommodates individual pace, energy levels and unforeseen disruptions, ensuring consistent progress without compromising mental well-being.Adequate sleep and proper nutrition play a pivotal role in effective exam preparation. By maintaining physical well-being through rest, exercise and a balanced diet, students can sustain focus, enhance memory retention and optimize overall cognitive performance. Ultimately, by harmonizing discipline, strategy and well-being, learners cultivate not only academic excellence but also sustainable, lifelong learning habits.

Strategic execution framework

Every student may adopt their own strategy for success, yet a universal and indispensable step is thoroughly analyzing and understanding the syllabus. A clear grasp of the syllabus not only directs focused preparation but also ensures efficient time management and prevents unnecessary effort on less relevant topics, forming the foundation for effective exam planning. Active and smart study techniques transform passive reading into purposeful learning. Engaging with material through questioning, summarizing and problem-solving promotes deeper understanding, while prioritizing high-yield topics and efficient methods ensures maximum retention in minimal time. Consistency does not mean studying at maximum intensity every day, but maintaining regular, steady effort over time. Small, focused sessions repeated consistently build progress and strengthen retention.Regular revision is crucial for consolidating learning and reinforcing memory. By revisiting topics systematically, prioritizing difficult areas and using active recall, students can ensure long-term retention and approach exams with confidence. Monitoring one's study routine and making necessary adjustments is crucial for effective learning. Regularly tracking progress motivates students, identifies weaker areas, and allows timely refinement of strategies to ensure focused and efficient preparation.Minimizing distractions is essential for maintaining focus and efficiency. A quiet, organized study space and limited digital interruptions enhance concentration and productivity.

By integrating these practices into a cohesive study approach, students can optimize their learning, maintain motivation, and approach exams with confidence and clarity. Ultimately, such a disciplined and strategic methodology transforms effort into consistent academic success.

Conclusion

the efficiency of exam preparation hinges on the seamless integration of strategic planning, disciplined execution and cognitive well-being. By synthesizing a meticulously structured timetable, targeted study methodologies, systematic revision and restorative practices, students can optimize intellectual engagement, mitigate stress and achieve sustained academic excellence. Beyond the scope of examinations, this holistic approach cultivates enduring competencies in self-discipline, resilience and purposeful learning, equipping learners for lifelong personal and professional advancement.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR FIRST PROFESSIONAL EMAIL OR RESUME

Stage: CMA Final

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A resume is not a list of everything you have ever done. It is a marketing document designed to show a recruiter that you are the right fit for a specific role. It means that your resume should include only relevant information that matches the job you are applying for.

KEY understanding:

- Before creating your resume, carefully read the job description first. Understand the skills, qualifications, and responsibilities required for the particular role. Then, customize your resume to align with those requirements. A tailored(Job-specific) resume always has a stronger impact than a generic(Common) one.
- You may have heard the saying, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” However, in the professional world, recruiters do judge candidates by their resumes. Your resume creates your first impression, so, it must be honest, clear, and professional. Never exaggerate or lie— everything you write should be something that can confidently explain in the interview.
- Remember, most of the questions in interview will be based on your resume. This way you can even predict your interview and do practice like mock interviews based on your resume.

Here is the sample recommended resume format for professionals:

1. Basic Details: Full name, phone number, email address, and location.

2. Objective: A short statement explaining your career goal and how you can add value to the organization.

3. Experience (if any): As it may be your first job after qualifying still you can add your experience of Internships, part-time jobs or projects relevant to the role.

4. Education: Your academic background, starting with the most recent qualification.

5. Courses / Certifications: Any additional courses or training related to the job.

6. Technical Skills: Job-specific technical skills such as software, tools or technical knowledge. e.g.: Excel, Tally, SQL etc.

7. Soft skills: Communication, teamwork, quick learner, problem solving, time management, etc.

8. Known Languages: Mention Languages you can speak, read, or write. e.g.: English, Gujarati, Hindi etc.

9. Declaration: A brief statement confirming that the information provided is true and accurate. e.g.: “All the Information in this resume is true and Correct to the best of my Knowledge and belief.”

Do	Don’t
Select a relevant and job-specific resume template.	Do not add a photograph, as Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) may reject your resume.
Use simple, professional sans-serif fonts such as Arial or Times New Roman.	Do not use slang, casual expressions, or informal language.
Keep the resume simple and focused.	Avoid unnecessary design elements.
Keep it clean, structured format with proper headings and spacing.	Do not make it too much colourful.
Attach a cover letter summarizing your profile, key skills, and career objectives.	

COVER LETTER or EMAIL :

A cover letter is a brief and formal introduction for your resume. It explains who you are and why you are perfect fit for the specific job position. It acts as a bridge between the job descriptions and your resume. Unlike resume which is in points, cover letter is written in paragraph. Also, it demonstrates as your communication skills.

Here is a sample format for a Cover Letter or an Email:

1. Salutation: Address with Dear Sir/Madam. If you know the gender and name of the Hiring manager then use accordingly.

2. The opening: start with your one liner introduction and straight go through clearly for which position you are applying for and where you found the job opening.

3. Body: Highlight 1 or 2 specific skills or experiences that make you ideal for this job. Explain how you can solve their problems or add value and be an asset for the organization.

4. Closing: a polite Thank with requesting of reply. e.g.: I am looking forward to your reply. Thank you.

5. Sign off: close professionally such as "yours sincerely" or "yours faithfully" or "best regards" which is followed by your name and contact information.

A well-written resume reflects your professionalism and honesty. Keep it simple, relevant, and tailored. Also, it will create as your strongest introduction to any recruiter.

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