Volume 2 - No. 2 - April - June 2020

CAT e-Bulletin

CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS

Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion

THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament

www.icmai.in

May the youth of the country acquire employable skills through CAT Course

MISSION STATEMENT

"The CMA 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."

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."

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament in the year 1959. The Institute as a part of its obligation, regulates the profession of Cost and Management Accountancy, enrols students for its courses, provides coaching facilities to the students, organises professional development programmes for the members and undertakes research programmes in the field of Cost and Management Accountancy. The Institute pursues the vision of cost competitiveness, cost management, efficient use of resources and structured approach to cost accounting as the key drivers of the profession. In today's world, the profession of conventional accounting and auditing has taken a back seat and cost and management accountants are increasingly contributing toward the management of scarce resources and apply strategic decisions. This has opened up further scope and tremendous opportunities for cost accountants in India and abroad.

After an amendment passed by Parliament of India, the Institute is now renamed as ''The Institute of Cost Accountants of India'' from ''The Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India''. This step is aimed towards synergising with the global management accounting bodies, sharing the best practices which will be useful to large number of trans-national Indian companies operating from India and abroad to remain competitive. With the current emphasis on management of resources, the specialized knowledge of evaluating operating efficiency and strategic management the professionals are known as ''Cost and Management Accountants (CMAs)''. The Institute is the 2nd largest Cost & Management Accounting body in the world and the largest in Asia, having approximately 5,00,000 students and 85,000 members all over the globe. The Institution headquartered at Kolkata operates through four regional councils at Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and 104 Chapters situated at important cities in the country as well as 10 Overseas Centres. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

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CMA Balwinder Singh	President
CMA Biswarup Basu	Vice-President

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CMA Ria Chowdhury	Assistant Director
Mr. Varun Joshi	Senior Officer

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CMA Balwinder Singh
President
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Greetings…!!!

I hope you are safe and taking good care of you and your family during these challenging times.

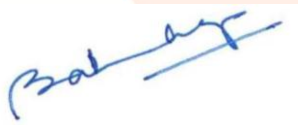
The entire world today is reeling under the threat and aftermath of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly impacted the business activities which will have far reaching, long-lasting and incredibly impacting implications. The Central Government along with full support & cooperation from State Governments has taken exemplary actions to battle this Pandemic. This is a crisis that has affected everyone. The Institute has taken all the possible measures for the convenience of its members, students and other stakeholders in the present scenario of lockdown. I am confident that we will win the battle against this pandemic by being together.

Certificate in Accounting Technicians (CAT) course of the Institute is designed to develop employable skills in the field of entry level accounting functions amongst the youth of the country as per the skill set required by the Industry. This CAT E-Bulletin includes various valuable articles by our resource persons on the Skill Development & Employment Opportunity available in the country and also covers the recent activities of the CAT Directorate.

I congratulate CMA H Padmanabhan, Chairman and other members of CAT Committee for bringing out this E-Bulletin. I would also like to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of CAT Directorate and contribution of our resource persons in this E-Bulletin.

My best wishes to the endeavours of the CAT Committee.

Stay safe and healthy!



CMA Balwinder Singh

VICE - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CMA Biswarup Basu
Vice-President
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Greetings!!

I hope that this message finds you in the best of health and spirit!

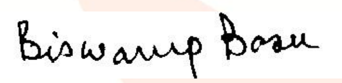
The Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the social & business activities worldwide. All affected Countries are taking all possible steps to curb the spread of the fatal Corona virus and adopted a policy of Lockdown to battle this Pandemic. We need to come together and follow the guidelines & instructions issued by the government to combat COVID-19. I am confident that we will all come out of this crisis soon.

The Institute is working continuously to enhance the employment scope for the youth of the country by providing them access to the quality education, to bridge the skill gap and to develop their full potential in getting employable skills through the CAT (Certificate in Accounting Technicians) Course. There is huge demand for entry level/ Junior Accountants in MSMEs, Tiny Industries, Panchayats etc in the country. CAT course equipped students become well versed with the maintenance of accounts, preparation of Tax Returns, Filling of Returns under Companies Act, Filling of Returns under Income Tax, GST, Custom Act, Export & Import documentation etc. This Bulletin is indeed an effort to spread awareness about the usefulness of CAT course for gaining employable skills amongst the youth of the country.

I congratulate CMA H. Padmanabhan, Chairman and other members of CAT Committee for bringing out this edition of "CAT e-Bulletin". I would also like to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of CAT department and its resource persons in this edition. I wish the CAT Committee grand success in all of its initiatives.

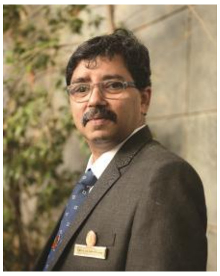
I pray to God to keep you all safe and healthy.

With warm regards,



CMA Biswarup Basu

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



CMA H. Padmanabhan
Chairman - CAT
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

My dear and respected Sir/Madam/Student,

Trust this finds you and your beloved ones in good health and cheer.

As we proceed in the era of financial and socio-economic uncertainty, financial literacy has become the major challenge faced by all countries globally. In this issue the distinguished authors have contributed relevant and valuable articles for this e-bulletin portraying the importance of Financial Literacy / Financial Inclusion.

We acknowledge the contribution of resource persons who have contributed their valuable articles in this edition of e-bulletin. The authors have been kind enough to take their valuable time and shared their thoughts to the readers explicitly sharing their experience in lucid language for anyone to involve in reading and understanding better. We sincerely thank each one of them and expect their services and relationship with us always.

It gives us immense pleasure to than tour own CAT Directorate Family Members, that is teammates in the CAT Department of the Institute for the efforts in bringing out this e-Bulletin and all the activities of the Institute connected with this fine tuning the youth skill of our Country.

We would like to express our concern and support for all the students, members and other stakeholder at this point of time. We assure you of our extra services during this time, which you will be hearing from our TEAM CAT soon.

We pray to Almighty for everyone's safety, good health and courage to fight the global pandemic.

Warm Regards

CMA H. Padmanabhan

MESSAGE

CMA Amit Anand Apte
Immediate Former President (2018-19) and
Former Chairman - CAT (2011-2014)
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Greetings…!!!

The whole world is going through unprecedented and challenging times due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Our Country is also facing its magnitude, posing serious threat to the health, life and economy. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted normalcy in every sphere of our life. All levels of the education system is disrupted worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges. The pandemic is impacting business, global supply chains and international trade.

COVID-19 has pushed organisations to rapidly operate in new ways. Business are rapidly adapting new technologies and strategies to evolve with rapidly changing consumer behaviour, focusing more on digital roadmaps.

Now educational institutions are also adopting online teaching methods to overcome the disaster and to ensure continuity of learning in this lockdown era. The lockdown presents educational institutions an opportunity to adopt an alternative pedagogy that uses technological tools to facilitate academic activities in the virtual world.

In this time of crisis, a well-thought of and effective educational practice is needed for the capacity-building of young minds. It will develop skills that will drive their employability, productivity, and well-being in the decades to come, and ensure the overall progress of the country.

Students now have to be more responsive and *proactive* within the limited available resources and should start adapting the new mode of remote education system.

Students please take care of your health, education, career and future growth. I am confident that we will win the battle against the coronavirus pandemic together.

I am happy to see that our Institute has also started online teaching on a continuous basis through Webinars, Online Interactive Sessions in the name of WEBINT for the benefit of the students and members.

My Best wishes to the Students and I wish the CAT Committee grand success in all its initiatives.

Warm Regards

CMA Amit Anand Apte

MESSAGE

CMA Manas Kumar Thakur
Former President (2016-17) and
Former Chairman - CAT (2018-19)
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Greetings…!!!

I am really honoured and privileged as I am sharing my feelings with one of the brightest section of the student communities in our country, who are the "future of India" as well as the "soldier of the society" through which we will live in perpetuity even after our demise.

I am very thankful to my friend CMA H Padmanabhan ji, Chairman CAT of the Institute for giving me opportunity to share my feelings and suggestions for the students.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented situation around the world. First of all I start by saying that we will definitely win our battle against "Novel Corona Virus 2019 "since we are working as a team. Our Heartiest Salute and Pranam to the brave hearts like Doctors, Nurses, Health Professionals, Police and others who are working relentlessly to make our life easier in this life threatening environment.

Dear friends , there is no doubt that this is a disaster of unimaginable proportion. We should be calm and sensible in this turbulent period. Remember one thing that any sort of disaster will provide you new paths or opportunities. But we should know how to handle the situation and way to tap the opportunities. If you carefully analyse you may find that COVID 19 and lockdown has already become a great teacher in many sphere of our life like digitization, our future work pattern, education, social networking, food habits, concern for the environment etc. We have to adapt with this situation and I have no doubt that it will create many opportunities for the World and we will come out even stronger from this situation.

Students, to reach your target or to become successful in life three D's are very vital, "Desire, Dedication and Discipline". Success is the main moto in life but you should be ready to accept the failure also. There is no room for frustration. Be positive and motivated. Friends when you play a football match and you find that your opponent team is taking lead then what you will do? Surrender or Recharge yourself ? If that time if you motivate yourself and your team mates that "we will win". Then only the result will be in your favour. You have the capacity, prove yourself. Please keep in mind that Time is the main ruler in life. Use it judiciously. Once lost, it never comes back.

Students, Self-analysis is very vital. Find your strengths, know your weaknesses. Nurture your strength effectively but be cautious and remember your weaknesses. I believe you all have the leadership quality. Follow the style, don't copy anyone. You should have your own identity. So try to prove your existence. God has given all of us "an Unique Strength". Please deep dive into your mind and identify your uniqueness. Your success will definitely be assured.

You are born in this country. India is your motherland. You have immense responsibilities towards your family, your society and your Nation. You should always feel proud about your Society and the Nation. Modern India depends on young people like you.

Don't allow your mind to follow a selfish path. We all are indebted to our Society since it has shaped us to what we are today as human beings. So we should try to give back as much as possible without any hesitation. This is like what we do for our parents. In this COVID 19 pandemic and lockdown situation please be safe, take care of your family and also try to extend help to the society. Your Success will count, if you are able to do something for your Society.

In conclusion, I remember our great Swami Vivekananda's message in a lecture delivered on 12th November 1896 at Lahore where he said "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached." I feel this should be our anthem for the time being and in near future.

I am happy to see that in this lockdown period our Institute has started Webinars, Online Interactive Sessions "WEBINT" on various topics under the able leadership of the CMA H. Padmanabhan ji, Chairman – CAT for the benefit of the students and members of the Institute.

My best wishes to the officials of CAT Directorate for sincerely working from home in this lockdown period for the benefit of the students of the Institute.

Stay safe and healthy!!!

Warm Regards

CMA Manas Kumar Thakur

MESSAGE

CMA Avijit Goswami
Former Chairman - CAT (2017 -18)
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Greetings…!!!

I am very happy to note that the Certificate in Accounting Technician (CAT) Committee is bringing out the quarterly issue of this E-Bulletin for the 2-nd quarter of 2020. In spite of the fact that when the whole world is passing through a challenging times due to the COVID 19 situation, the members and the officials of the CAT Committee are working relentlessly and silently under the able leadership and guidance of the Chairman CMA H. Padmanabhan for continuous improvement of this special course of the Institute.

In the Post COVID 19 situation, India is expected to be less dependent on China for its many manufactured products and as a result, there would be a huge requirement of skilled manpower in all types of functions of the businesses, and specially with a potential of enormous growth in SME and MSME sectors, there would definitely be a lot of employment opportunities for our CAT Course passed students as well.

Through this medium of E-Bulletin, I would like to convey my best wishes to all the students of the CAT Course for their successful and bright future career , and I am also confident that with their skill and performance , all the CAT qualified students would take the active part in the nation building process.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate CMA H. Padmanabhan, Chairman - CAT Committee for bringing out this “E-Bulletin”. I also congratulate the other members of the CAT Committee and the officials of the CAT Department for their efforts to publish this E-Bulletin in the present form.

Best Regards,

CMA Avijit Goswami

MESSAGE

CMA Dr Iyyanadar Ashok
Former Chairman - CAT (2015 -17)
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Greetings…!!!

The outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 is causing terrible human suffering across the world. This global health has created a unique challenge that has impacted all of us. The economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are palpable for all of us. It has paralysed all levels of education and training provision. The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging education and businesses to think in unique and different ways. The disruptions caused by the virus outbreak have left deep impacts on consumer behaviour and preferences.

But this crisis has created opportunities for the development of more flexible learning solutions that make better use of distance learning and digital tools by shifting from classroom learning to online or distance learning. Digital transformation is driving positive outcomes in this COVID 19 pandemic and lockdown era: whether it is imparting education to students, streamlining processes, harnessing data or shaping entirely new ways of doing business, uniting every part of the enterprise or uniting the whole world for a common purpose. Students now will be able to grab the expert lectures of the faculties from any part of the world, thus enhancing quality education. This crisis will also enhance new areas of business and employability by followings the footsteps of digitization and new technologies.

I am happy to learn that the Institute is also adapting new technologies and is conducting online education and training programmes through various webinars for the students and members of the Institute. I have also seen that the Institute is also trying to enhance the scope in which every student can have the access to professional education and in developing a pool of market-ready talent through the CAT (Certificate in Accounting Technicians) Course. The CAT Directorate is establishing new Regional Oral Coaching Centres to increase its presence all over India and to benefit the aspirants of CAT course by providing industry oriented education and training and hence making the aspirants of CAT Course “Industry Ready” or “Job Ready”.

I am thankful to CMA H Padmanabhan, Chairman - CAT for giving me an opportunity to pen down my feelings in the CAT e Bulletin.

My best wishes to the students.

Stay Safe and healthy!

Warm Regards

CMA Dr Iyyanadar Ashok

FINANCIAL INCLUSION THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Shri K. N. Balakumaran
MSc (Ag), CAIIB, PGDHRM
Retired as Lead District Manager (LDM) for Trivandrum district (Lead bank IOB)

Of late, Financial Inclusion has gained much prominence, attention and activities in our country. The close relationship between 'inclusive growth' of all segments of population in a country & financial inclusion has been well established. United Nations has approved "Financial Inclusion" as one of the seventeen "Sustained Development Goals (SDGs)" for achieving a sustainable Development, worldwide.

While World Bank aims to achieve Universal Financial Access by 2020 meaning all adults, the world over to have at least one Bank account, in India, too many households lack bank accounts, too many small business units have no recourse to formal credit and the developmental race is weighted down by exclusion. Access to financial services opens door for families of excluded segments for betterment of their consumption leading to better life standards & also for investment for future through health, education, access to credit, livelihood opportunities, reduction of inequality & old age financial protection.

year	Population estimate	18-70 Yr segment (approx)	No of PMJDY accounts
2019	138 Cr	77 Cr	36.1 Cr

Financial Inclusion is in effect bringing families of excluded segments into access to formal financial institution, more specifically as access to banking. This will entail them to savings, payment processing, micro finance, insurance coverage, mortgage & even old age financial protection like pension. These in effect create investments, Jobs & stimulate growth in specific areas. The talk of deepening financial inclusion is often accompanied by expressions of concern about the implications for systemic stability of agencies involved. IMF analysis has shown that more inclusion boosts growth, so it is possible to have both higher growth as well as more inclusion.

To deepen Financial Inclusion, many agencies have to play their role. At the outset, Banking Services need to be close to where people are. Inclusion does not mean lending to everyone at any cost as extension of credit to unproductive projects, ill-informed persons & unfit clients will expose lenders to higher risks as well as drive the clients deeper into debt. Banks, Payment networks, Microfinance institutions, NGOs, Telecommunication Companies, Technology companies, Central Bank viz., RBI & above all the Government have to play their roles effectively.

While India is the fifth largest economy by nominal GDP and the third largest economy by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) method, the per capita income stands at 139th rank (GDP) and 118th rank (PPP) among 195 countries in the world. As per 2011 census nearly 22% of the population was poor. The estimate for 2019 is 17% with the next census due next year. World Poverty Clock estimates extreme poverty in India at 5.3% of population (with income less than $ 1.9 /day). All this point out to dire need to go ahead with inclusive growth in turn with renewed focus on financial inclusion in our country.

Indian Scenario: - The term "Financial Inclusion" was used by RBI for the first time in its Annual financial Statement for 2005-06 expressing concern at the exclusion of vast section of our population from formal financial system. This was followed by introduction of a basic "No Frills" bank account for those with an annual deposit not exceeding Rs 50,000/- based on RBI's Khan Committee recommendation (2005). Norms for opening accounts were liberalized. In the following year RBI gave permission to engage NGOs, SHGs, MFIs, other Civil society Organisations as intermediaries for expanding banking services reach, working as **"Business Correspondents (BC)/ Business Facilitators (BF)".**

However, lack of adequate bank branches in rural areas, illiteracy more so lack of financial literacy, Low income & savings & inadequate legal & consumer protection frameworks imposed roadblocks in last mile connectivity & in achieving the goals.

By 2011 only 59% of households had access to banking services. Of this, urban households had a slight edge at 68% while that for rural households was 54%. Only 38% of Bank branches in the country worked in rural areas, in the case of ATMs it was still less at 15%. The initiative for establishing BCs/BFs led to establishment of 1.4 lakhs BCs, but the actual field level experience indicated that many of them were not functional.

PMJDY as a "Watershed" in Financial inclusion action plan: - The National Commission for Financial Inclusion launching the scheme named as "Prime Ministers Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY)" on 28th August, 2014 was a watershed in this area. The scheme aimed at providing basic banking account to atleast 75 Million (7.5 Cr) households which has savings, micro credit, micro life & non-life insurance, debit card facility, self-accumulated old age pension etc. all converged into a single window. The core theme was "Universal Access to Banking Facilities". The Bank account under this scheme provided a basic bank account for savings & remittance with zero balance and minimal documentation, a RuPay debit card with free accidental/ PTD insurance cover of Rs One Lakh, Over draft facility upto Rs 5,000/- (subsequently raised to Rs 10,000) after 6 months, Mobile banking facility for remittance, balance generation & mini statement generation, free Life Insurance cover of Rs 30,000/- (18-59 yrs age) etc. The scheme also provided for Life & non-life insurance, old age pension, **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** for social benefits etc to be attached to this account. Present status of accounts opened under this scheme indicates that accounts opened under this programme are also turning the corner.

Status of PMJDY accounts (As at 3-7-2019)

Items	PSU banks	Pvt sector banks	RRBs	Total
No. of Accounts	28.6 Cr	1.3 Cr	6.2 Cr	36.1 Cr
Balance in A/C (Rs)	0.794 lakh Cr	0.030 Lakh Cr	0.181 Lakh Cr	1.005 Lakh Cr

Increasing Reach of Bank outlets: - Various steps were initiated to ensure that at least One Bank outlet became available within a distance of 5 KM from a village. Towards this end survey, location mapping etc were undertaken through Lead Bank/SLBC mechanisms. It was also stipulated that in the opening of Brick & Mortar branches, at least 25% of the total number of branches opened by a bank in an year should be in 'Unbanked Centres'. General Permission was given by RBI to Commercial banks to open branches in Tier III & IV centres with population upto 50,000. Banks have a general depressed apetite for opening Rural branches due to low business volumes, high transaction costs & infrastructural roadblocks on digitalisation. Inspite of these, the growth in the number of Rural branches keeping pace or even marginally exceeding the pace of growth of overall number of branches is a positive development from the point of deepening financial inclusion.

Year ->	2011	2019	%age increase
Rural branches (No)	31,391	52,181	66%
Total no. of branches (No)	94,857	1,55,183	64%
%age of Rural branches	33%	34%	

Govt backed Social Security Insurance Schemes:-

Launching of three Social Security Schemes which had almost no stringent conditionalities except age restrictions proved to be another important milestone in deepening financial inclusion of excluded segments.

The first product viz., **"Pradhan Manthri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)"** which is almost a universal accidental insurance policy covering people upto 70 years (from 18 yrs) with rockbottom premium of Rs 12/- per year with a Risk cover of Rs 2 Lakh for accidental death & PTD and Rs 1 Lakh cover for partial disability provided a cheap & flexible accident insurance coverage. All commercial banks act as collection agents with auto debit features. Claim settlements are fast and reliable. LDMs in every district review claim settlements on quarterly basis. Data shows that 17.03 crore people got insured under this scheme as at November, 2019. On a population of 138 crores, the segment of

18-70 yrs constitute about 56%, working out to roughly 77 Crores. Hence enrollment by eligible group stands at 22% only. There is need to deepen enrollments by rural households. Commercial Banks & Insurance Firms are handicapped due to their sparse location, meager staffing & pleothora of activities. The lack of awareness, distance of banking outlets & even trust deficit pose hurdles to many eligible households to take advantage. There is need to rope in additional players like LSGs, Village Pradhans & even line departments of the State as agents for enrollment. The cumulative claim settlement is 36,152 upto Nov 2019 amounting to Rs 723 Crores far exceeding the premia collected.

The second product is **"Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)"** which is a life insurance policy of Rs 2 Lakhs at a rock bottom premium of Rs 330/ annum covering people upto 50 years (from 18 yrs). Herealso, all commercial banks act as collection agents with auto debit features and death due to any reasons is covered. This is an additionality to the first named scheme. But Data shows that only 5.92 Crore people took this policy so far. On an estimated population of 138 crores, the segment of 18-50 yrs constitute about 44%, working out to roughly 61 Crores. Hence enrollment by eligible group stands at 9.7% only. The remarks on deepening coverage under PMSBY applies to this scheme also.

The third product is an Universal self-accumulated Pension scheme viz., **"Atal Pension Yojana (APY)".** Concerned about the old age income security of the working poor especially from the unorganized sectors and with the aim of providing a secure & trusted window for voluntary savings for retirement, this scheme administered by PFRDA was launched in 2015. The scheme guaranteed a minimum monthly pension of upto Rs 5,000 pm for subscribers for life, with a provision for return of corpus amounting to Rs 8.50 Lakhs to the nominees upon demise of the subscriber. Enrolment was limited to 40 years of age (from 18 yrs). Data available indicates that 1.54 Cr youth have opened accounts. If we take 33% as empirical segment of population in the age bracket of 18-40 years, 46 crore youth are eligible for opening accounts, but only 3.3% have opted so far.

However, the above mentioned three schemes have opened a new chapter on social security of excluded segments in our country who were otherwise not exposed to any such protection earlier. India being a vast country with varied belief, cultures & insecure pasts, in years to come, as the awareness and visible benefit outflow percolates, deepening of coverage is sure to happen.

<u>Easy Access to Banking facilities:-</u>

Providing easy access to banking facilities to remote areas has been a priority of all agencies involved in deepening financial inclusion. Apart from the steps taken to open more bank branches in rural areas discussed earlier, various innovative steps on delivery are happening.

In our country Mobile Phone penetration has revolutionized rural connectivity and deepening access to banking has taken advantage of this development with a win-win situation for all. Mobile Banking has made great inroads into rural & migrant population segments.

Mobile Phone penetration among population		Smart phone penetration among population	
% age	Numbers with SIM	% age	Numbers with SIM
93%	128 Crores	36%	50.2 Crores

Introduction of ***99#** enabling mobile banking facility in Non-smart phones, that do not need internet connectivity linking mobile number with bank account number was a giant step in reaching the unreached. The above facility available in all banks provided basic facilities like remittances, balance checking, mini statement generation, SMS facility on transactions etc., to account holders in rural areas. **'BHIM'** app made available to Smart phone users provided a still better banking facility through universal mobile banking. This is an additionally to bank specific Mobile banking apps. The coverage of 93% by mobile telephony will take coverage of banking access far & high.

Establishment of **'Common Service Centres (CSC)'** under e-governance initiative, which is a rural electronic hub with computer & internet facilities is also providing Rural Banking & Insurance Services, Micro credit, Small value Loan services etc thus supplementing Financial Inclusion activities. Launching of **'India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)'** in September, 2018 was another Landmark in deepening the financial Inclusion. With about 1.55 Lakh Post offices, practically covering all Rural areas and with 3 Lakh post men & Gram Dhak Sevaks with rural touch with households, the access to banking has taken a leap forward. With the introduction of **Adhar Enabled** Payment **System** (**AEPS)** in IPPB, a cross connectivity between IPPB and other commercial Banks have been established which has revolutionized last mile delivery of hard cash to customers hands. Already in some states, withdrawal of social benefits credited under DBT to bank accounts are taking place through IPPB under AEPS.

The scheme of engaging BCs/BFs introduced during 2006 was further widened during September 2010 by including profit taking Companies as well as NBFCs also in the list of permitted institutions which led to injection of more professionalism. Now BCs perform the process of making available Banking services in more than 6 Lakhs locations in the country, which is sizeable. Aided by the technology & biometric systems, they have the advantage of flexible timings and also local feel, language & culture. They exhibit the sponsor Bank's name & logo and adopt the same software.

Locations covered by BCs in Rural Locations	Locations covered by BCs in Urban Locations	Locations covered by other modes other than rural bank branches	Total
5.15 Lakhs	1.42 Lakhs	0.03 Lakhs	6.60 Lakhs

Launching of **RuPay Debit cards** was an important delivery channel for rural area households; RuPay cards are incentivized by free accidental Insurance cover of Rs 1 Lakh. But Illiteracy & need to use the debit cards with providence still act as a disincentive in wide adoption & usage. Connectivity problems, ATM breakdowns are still rampant in rural areas. Some more innovations are needed to iron out roadblocks in it easy usage and acceptance.

Financial Literacy & Awareness:-

There is growing realization that only an informed customer will be able to take proper financial decision even if right bouquet of products are made available at doorstep. This should be ideally supported by a robust Grievance Redressal Mechanism also. Approach paper for National Strategy for Financial inclusion (2019-24) published by RBI during January 2020 identifies Women, Students/ Children, Senior citizens/Elderly, Youth, Small Entrepreneurs, Farmers etc as the vulnerable groups in our country.

Financial Literacy Centre (FLC) is a campaign by RBI to provide banking and finance related information and advice to the public. Nominated Banks sponsor the Office, infrastructure & staffing. The FLCs have seasoned bankers as Counselors. They provide bank-neutral service, free of cost. It is envisaged to have one such office in all the blocks of the country. But barring a few states, only one FLC functions in a district.

No. of districts in the country	No. of Blocks in the country	No. of FLCs functioning
736	6612	1483

Various audio-visual facilities are utilized & public meetings conducted in their efforts to disseminate awareness. Financial Literacy Awareness weeks are also held on specific weeks announced by RBI. The process of coverage of all blocks under this campaign can be revisited in the pursuit for deepening Financial inclusion.

Grievance Redressal Mechanisms:-

An effective reliable and cost effective grievance redressal mechanism is an important pillar in deepening Financial Inclusion as the vulnerable groups are basically shy, mostly not aggressive and the service providers enjoy an upper hand. Continuous improvements are taking place in our country in this field thanks to the efforts of RBI. Though structured procedure for representations are available in each bank, since the complaint is targeted at the same Office, a trust deficit sets in, in the minds of complaintees. Practically, the offices of Lead District Managers/ District Collectors function as redressal mechanisms within their districts. At the top of the pyramid, the Office of the Banking Ombudsman of RBI supervises & solves all genuine grievances very effectively.

Boosting Purchasing power of vulnerable groups:-

With the aim of increasing the purchasing power in rural areas, more activities are taking place. To name a few, one scheme viz., **PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi** provides an income support @

Rs 2000/- every four months to Farmer families. Another one viz., **PM-Shram Yogi Maan Dhan**, an old age pension scheme for unorganized sectors like rickshaw pullers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders etc envisage monthly pension of Rs 3000/- after 60 years and family pension @ 50% to spouse after subscriber's demise. The contribution is equally made by subscriber & Central Govt. A general OD **facility to account holders of PMJDY** upto Rs 10,000/- boosts cash in the hands of general public in rural areas, in times of need. Data reveal that 59 Lakhs have availed this facility to the tune of Rs 443 Crores. 1.20 Crore people have availed General **Credit Card (GCC)** an OD facility in the form Revolving credit with no end use stipulations, introduced during 2005, in Rural & Semi urban centres, to the tune of Rs 1.75 Lakhs Crores.

Financial Inclusion Index:-

It is a single matrix to measure access & usage of formal financial products & services and rate the performance at the last mile for banking services availability. CRISIL has undertaken the assessment. The rating is on a scale zero to 100

Low	Average	Above Average	High
<35	35-50	50.1-65	>65

As at the end of 2018, the score is 58 for the nation indicating an above average performance. CRISIL has found that PMJDY scheme as the primary driver for this performance. Goa with a score of 100 and Kerala with 90.0 are worthy of mention.

Changed Scenario in post Covid-19 Pandemic:-

The onslaught of Covid-19 Pandemic is in all its fury at the present time. The pandemic is capable of changing the entire panorama of every sector including Banking & Financial Inclusion. Non-touch digitalization procedures are likely to take upper hand, post pandemic. There is need to sensitise vulnerable groups increasingly on the new age non-touch technologies and also to utilize digital format in their proposals. That is going to be real challenge in coming periods.

Dedicated portals for assessing authentic periodic updates, grievance redressal, self-study on sound banking practices, submitting micro credit and micro insurance proposals along with establishing trained kiosks in designated locations or with already established BCs need to be probed for future. Lot of Innovations without compromising on Cyber Security is the need of the hour.

Conclusion:-

Deepening Financial Inclusion is a journey and Technological advances is the key to improving access widely, lowering costs at the same time. As Mobile penetration is rapid and real, a mobile connection has to be one's bank account in all its meaning & usage. As & when the visit to a brick & mortar bank or its Business correspondent does not become mandatory even for an account opening or transactions and any retail shop can effect cash disbursal from one's account, financial inclusion will become real & full in all its meanings.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

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Introduction:

"Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving"

- *Warren Buffet*

The need of the hour is beautifully described in the thought itself. As we proceed in the era of financial and socio-economic uncertainty, financial literacy has become the major challenge faced by all countries globally. If we take a look at the micro-economic view, even the back-bone of financial and social progress of any country depends on the level of awareness among the individuals in terms of basic financial risks involved in their livelihood and its probable resolution. In the country like India which has high young population, the tendency of over spending against income is a very common phenomenon. Consequently, the cases of financial frauds, bankruptcy, have become a trend. So basically, there are two sides of the story, one is the victim and another is trickster, both are having common lacuna of proper understanding of need for budgeting and appropriate investment and here the question of financial literacy comes into picture. The current scenario across the world itself signifies the utmost relevance of financial literacy.

What is Financial Literacy all about:

The term **"financial literacy"** means having requisite knowledge, skills and confidence to make effective financial decision and manage our finances well, taking into account economic and social circumstances.

Here, **"knowledge"** means having an understanding of personal financial issues as well as financial instruments and available to resolve those issues; **"skills"** means being able to apply that knowledge to manage one's personal finances; and **"Confidence"** means feeling sufficiently self-assured to make decisions relating to one's personal finances.

The common and basic issues in financial planning faced by an entity:

The concept of financial literacy is applicable to two entities – Individual (i.e. consumers and / investor) and Organizations (i.e. service provider / manufacturer / investor). Considering the socio-cultural environment of our country, the absence of following aspects is primarily observed-

- An individual mostly fails to strike a chord between his income and expenditure
- People fail to distinguish between essential and non-essential items of expenditure
- An entity fails to understand the concept of budgeting in order to prioritize spending
- They don't have clear financial and family goal to maintain stable future in terms of children education, medical benefit, retirement planning etc.
- They are unaware of financial risks and opportunities involved in financial markets
- They are unaware of available financial instruments and its suitability in accordance with their need
- They are lacking of basic information regarding statutory compliances, regulations in financial sectors

- With lack of financial education, any investment that resembles credit and interest rates, looks intimidating and thus increases the chance of financial pit-falls.

Some facts about Financial Literacy:

- The standard and poor survey from India in 2014 found that over 76% of adults in India did not comprehend financial basics.
- Over two-third of the population is financially illiterate.
- The Federal Reserve reports that the typical family that files for bankruptcy owes more than one and one half times its annual income in short-term, high interest debt.
- The buying power of young adults is estimated (in 2010) at $150 billion annually with the increased availability of on-line shopping and gambling, aggressive credit card solicitation, and electronic phishing scams,

Benefits we can draw from Financial Literacy

- Basic financial literacy helps people become self-sufficient and achieve financial stability. Literacy enables them to realise their short -term and long-term goal which helps them to create a realistic roadmap through good financial decisions.
- People who make good financial decisions are more likely to achieve their financial goals, which includes being able to save money, distinguish the difference between wants and needs, manage a budget, pay for children education, afford medical expenditure and plan for retirement.
- Financial literacy also empowers people through a basic level of financial education that helps people recognize the red flags and thus helps to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of fraud and making them more likely to hedge against financial risks.
- It is very pertinent to know that how interest rates work, the difference between stocks and bonds, and the factors that impact our credit rating. When people are well versed in the state of their finances, they have the information they need to take action, modify their investment portfolio, or continue with their current strategy.

Govt.'s role in promoting financial literacy:

Financial literacy impacts the promotion of **financial inclusion** which ultimately results in financial stability of any economy. As the large section of population is financially excluded from the formal financial set up, thus, the government is concerned regarding increase the level of financial literacy as a key to safeguard common people's interest as well as to assimilate more and more well-informed individuals under stable economic atmosphere. This can be improved through financial education, information, instruction, training and advice. National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) a non-profit company, was setup under section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 to promote financial literacy in India. It is promoted by four major financial regulators – RBI, SEBI, IRDA, and PFRDA. It conducted benchmark survey of financial literacy in 2015 to find out level of financial awareness in India. It mostly operates by collaborating with schools and institutions and conducted educational programs to introduce new curriculum relating to financial management concept so that people become financially literate from the initial stages of their career. Govt. may also consider Schools are teaching the financial skills necessary to survive along with the skills of reading, writing and arithmetic so that our children can earn a good income, and thrive in today's society. It may work to increase financial awareness and self-reliance in the school and community by providing programs for students and their families at all age levels.

What we can do to improve Financial Literacy:

As govt. performs its own role, we as a responsible member of various prestigious Institutions, can organize various program covering relevant topics like-

- ✓ Financial Instruments and its suitability in various market scenarios

- ✓ Investments and measuring returns
- ✓ types of bank accounts,
- ✓ services offered by banks,
- ✓ Aadhaar card, PAN card and other statutory compliances
- ✓ power of compounding, and time value of money
- ✓ digital payments and its pros and cons,
- ✓ protection against financial frauds.
- ✓ Providing information to consumers in various fields involving facts, data and specific knowledge on products to make them aware of financial opportunities, choices and consequences
- ✓ ensuring that individuals acquire the skills and ability to understand financial terms and concepts, through the provision of training and guidance

Measuring of financial literacy:

For the measurement of financial literacy, Organization for Economic Co-operation (OECD), World Bank has developed a standardized questionnaire. Mainly questions related to money management, planning and choosing financial services were used in the questionnaire.

The OECD Approach

In terms of financial literacy measurement, OECD/INFE considered three main components-

- ✓ **Knowledge,**
- ✓ **Attitude and**
- ✓ **Behavior**

Based on question related to these components, a separate Knowledge, Attitude and Behavior scores are calculated. OECD/INFE also highlighted the importance of calculating single score of financial literacy based on the sum of Knowledge, Attitude and Behavior scores.

However, OECD/INFE approach may not fully reflect the specific characteristics of a country and priorities of policymaker's in the field of financial education, as one of the primary objectives of OECD/INFE approach is the comparison of different countries in terms of financial literacy. For this reason, the questionnaire used during the surveys was also developed according to universal standards and may not include some important policy related or country-specific questions. On the other hand, some questions used by OECD/INFE in different countries may lead to bias due to cultural differences.

Thus, in order to elaborate and implement national strategy of financial education efficiently, it is important to consider policy related and country-specific aspects of financial literacy. The OECD/ INFE approach underestimates the role of the "attitude" component in the context of financial literacy measurement. The overall financial literacy score as provided for by OECD/INFE is calculated using the amount of the knowledge, attitude and behavior scores and may take any value in the range 1 to 22. The financial knowledge and behavior scores have greater weight in the overall score calculation, and the financial attitude is, therefore, less important according to the OECD/INFE approach

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) and World Bank Approach

In order to design and implement financial education related projects more efficiently it is important to fully understand the needs of target groups. For example, usually people may have theoretical knowledge about economy as a whole, but are not able to project its effects on the management of personal finances. Therefore, it is important to separate "Knowledge" and "Skill" -the two components in case of measuring financial literacy, like as, Financial Services Authority (FSA) separated "Knowledge" and "Skill" components of financial literacy during the exploratory study in UK (FSA, 2005).

Although forming an appropriate behavior is more important in the financial education strategy point of view, we should not underestimate the remaining components of financial literacy. Specifically, a negative attitude can be a serious obstacle to a successful and effective financial education projects.

In case of World Bank, the approach to measure financial literacy was different. Here at the beginning focus groups were used to identify main manifestations of financially capable people in relation to knowledge, behaviors, skills and attitudes, which were then grouped into four major thematic dimensions such as managing money, planning ahead, making choices and getting help. As a result, the financial literacy assessment questionnaire included questions mainly relating to these thematic areas.

However, Thematic dimensions of financial literacy pointed out by RTF/WB are general in nature and may not reflect the priorities set by domestic policymakers in financial education, as the RTF/WB approach to financial literacy assessment does not take into account such factors as education and income level, therefore, does not enable financial education policymakers to fully identify the needs of population and evaluate the effectiveness of the financial education strategy.

The relevance to study the impact of financial literacy on different economic aspects such as financial decision-making thereby financial stability has been emphasized after Global Financial Crisis. Thus, in order to be able to develop and implement an effective financial education policy the policymakers need very comprehensive data related to the level of financial literacy in the country and people behavior in terms of decision-making. As discussed before both approaches of financial literacy measurement developed by OECD and World Bank contain some challenges, which impact policymaking process. This is why, there is a need to develop more comprehensive tool for financial literacy measurement, which will allow:

- ✓ Policy makers to ensure proper policy priority setting and multilaterally monitoring the effectiveness of policies dedicated to financial education,
- ✓ FE project implementers to easily map the existing financial literacy issues across different target groups, thematic areas and financial capability components (knowledge, skills, attitude, behavior),
- ✓ Public to monitor the progress and hold accountability of policy makers in a simple manner.

Conclusion:

It is important to increase the financial knowledge and capability of all our students. To better navigate their financial futures and be prepared to make smart choices, students need to learn about earning and spending, saving and investing, using credit wisely, paying for college, and recognizing and avoiding financial fraud. No wonder that, it is a complex subject that requires sufficient training. Yet, financial literacy is suggested as a probable tool to increase financial awareness and self-reliance among the individuals.

FINANCIAL LITERACY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION – PAYMENT BANKS

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Financial Literacy has become one of the top priorities for most of the world today as it is directly proportional to the economic growth of a country. It is alarming to know that the financial literacy rate in India is way behind other countries. According to a global survey, India is home to almost 20% of the world's population; however, 76% of its adult population is not even aware of the basic financial concepts.

Financial Literacy is the ability to understand basic financial concepts and the possession of knowledge and skills required to make informed and effective financial planning, decisions using the available financial services / resources. It is about knowing how to generate, spend, invest and save money.

The Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness on key topics every year through a focused campaign. Financial Literacy Week 2019 observed from June 3-7 on the theme of "Farmers" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system.

From time to time RBI introducing New Banking Models that will create a revolutionary trend in the Indian Banking Industry and it will accelerate ***Government's Mission in improving "Financial Literacy" and achieving "Total Financial Inclusion (TFI)" in the country. And these models play a vital for a country's Economic Development.***

One among New Banking Models of Reserve Bank of India's is **Differentiated Banks** (niche **banks**) are **banks** that serve the needs of certain demographic segment of the population. Small Finance **Banks** and Payment **Banks** are examples of **differentiated banks** in India. Custodian **Banks** and Wholesale and Long-Term Finance **banks** (WLTF) are proposed **differentiated banks**.

Lack of awareness of the structured Financial System and an unregulated or disorganized Rural Banking System, prevented most rural population from depositing their savings in banks. The introduction of Payment Banks in the rural, semi urban, and interior pockets will change this scenario, usage of and access to the system will help people understand it's functioning and help in Channelizing the Savings of the people in these areas. It will also give government access to funds for development activities.

The Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India have implemented various Business Models to achieve TFI i.e., No-frills Accounts, Business Correspondents, Business Facilitators, Local Area Banks, Regional Rural Banks, and setting up of Rural Branches of Commercial Banks. However, their contribution has been marginal. Payment Banks are better poised to aid achieve TFI, their strength lies in the use of Technology and the Low Operational Cost it would entail in contrast with the Bricks–and-Mortar Banking Model.

Payment Banks will offer the following Advantages

Currency Circulation

Presently, Currency Circulation is Less in urban areas due to the use of Debit/Credit Cards and Internet/ Mobile Banking compared to rural and semi urban areas. With Payment Banks using Technology-mobile phones and bio-metric system (Aadhar Card enabled bank accounts)-the use of Currency Circulation in these areas too will decrease drastically. Payment of utility bills, tax payments, and small business transactions will change to Wire Transactions. This will help fight the problem of Forged Notes and reduce the Import of Paper for Printing Currency.

A Narrow Banking Model

Attracting deposits for lending is one of the core activities of the Commercial Banking system. However, mobilizing deposits and investing them in safe mode-in treasury bills, government securities-is called Narrow Banking. Since Payment Banks are mandated to invest their mobilized funds in government securities, these maybe classified under the 'Narrow Banking Model'. This is the safest model as there is no Credit Risk involved, and the Spreads are high due to the mobilization of low-cost deposits.

100% Safety

The Maximum Deposit to be mobilized by Payment Banks has been capped at Rs.1,00,000/-. The maximum deposits guarantee covered by **DICGC** is Rs.5,00,000/- this means depositors' funds with payment banks are Completely Secure. This is one of the USPs that will attract Savings Bank Accounts to Payment Banks-most customers in the Rural Areas seek complete security for their hard earned savings funds. The activation of these Banks across the country will also lead to the decline of Chit Funds, and other unauthorized institutions that exploit Rural Population.

High Spread

The Operational Cost for these banks is less compared to Conventional Banking system. Further the use of latest Technology will increase the Spread of their business operations. In addition to Spreads, as these banks are authorized to sell other financial products such as Life Insurance, General Insurance and Mutual Funds like SIPs, etc. Presently Life and General Insurance penetration levels are low in India when compared to other countries. Payment Banks will increase the penetration level of these products. Moreover the fee-based income through Cross Selling will add to their Bottom-Line.

One Segment One Product

Payment banks are authorized to mobilize Savings Bank accounts upto Rs.1,00,000/- from salaried employees, petty vendors, agriculturists, landless laborers and small scales. This one product approach will be hugely beneficial as Marketing Skills required to sell this product is minimal. Further, this Niche Segment is not fully tapped by Commercial Banks. The differential service provided by the Payment Banks to the Customer will result in High Profitability.

Reach

In India, Mobile Usage is increasing and people-including rural population is well informed about its usage and functionalities. Mobile Service Providers have been allotted Licenses to Start Payment Banks. These providers using Latest Technology will reach the customers in the Nook and Corner of the Country easily incurring least Cost of Operations.

Low Cost of Operations

Brick and Mortar Banking is a Capital-intensive Business Model and Commercial Banks would find it difficult to Open Branches in the unbanked and far-flung areas as incremental cost would exceed incremental benefit. With the help of Business Correspondents or Franchise Banking System, Payment Banks will provide Low Cost services to the Customers located in the Remote Areas.

For Example, assume that a customer is buying a **Top-up** for his Mobile for Rs.20/- in a **remote village** in India. A petty shop (Buddy Shop) owner in a village is getting commission on selling the top-up without any paper work. Operational Process of credit to a Savings Bank Account is ***similar to a top-up***. Similar process will be adopted by payment banks to deposit credits to a SB account and for payments Bio-metric System. In Conventional Banking

System (at present RRBs located in villages and unbanked areas) Paper Work like Pay-in-slips, Withdrawal form, Cheques etc. for receiving cash and payment of deposit through bank branch channels is essential. Payment Banks will focus on **Paperless Banking**.

Asset Liabilities Management (ALM)

ALM mismatch will be minimal in Payment Banks as Deposits mobilized will be mostly invested in secure instruments like government securities. As these Banks do not have any Credit Lending activity, Liquidity Risk will not arise. The **RBI's Monetary Policy** will not affect Payment Banks due to these reasons. Due to Low Operational Cost and Spreads these banks can offer Higher Rate of Interest to Savings Bank deposit accounts when compared to Commercial Banks. As a result **attrition or migration of SB Accounts** from Commercial Banks to Payment Banks will occur. This poses a huge challenge for the former.

KYC

Most of the Payment Bank Licences issued by RBI is to Mobile Service Providers. When a customer wants to open an account with the payment banks of the mobile service providers, obtaining KYC becomes **seamless** as most of these Companies would have complied with the KYC Guidelines for providing the Mobile Phone, DTH or Landline Service. Hence, these providers can open an account to all their existing customers **by default**. Those who wish to use the account can begin operations without the hassle of documentation, photograph, address proof and identity proof.

The Last Mile Bridge

From time to time the Government of India and State Governments offer various subsidies and benefits to the people, particularly the social security schemes. These benefits will directly be credited to the beneficiaries through Payment Banks.

Implementation of Basel III

Three main risks in the Banking Industry are Credit Risk, Market Risk, and Operational Risk-Banks have to provide Capital Adequacy Norms i.e., a minimum of 9% Capital to Risk Assets Ratio + 2.5% Buffer Capital to cover these risks. As Payment Banks will not sanction any Credit or Loans to the Public, Credit Risk for these banks is **zero**. As for Market Risk, most of its investments will be either Treasury Bills or Government Securities and hence this risk is also **minimal**. And as the regulator will monitor their performance closely in the initial stages, Compliance Risk is also less. However, there is some Operational Risk related to the implementation, usage and adaptation of Technology. The Overall Risk Profile for Payment Banks is very less when compared to the Conventional Banking System in India.

Treasury Borrowings

In most of Commercial Banks, CASA Deposits Share in the Total Liabilities (Deposits) is in the range of **40% to 50%**, where the Cost of CASA Deposits Ranges from **0% to 4%**. Once Payment Banks activate their operations are in full-swing, CASA Deposits will **shift** from Commercial Banks and this will lead to an increase in the Commercial Banks Treasury Borrowing to Bridge ALM Mismatches. As a result Spreads will **thin further**.

To overcome this problem, Commercial Banks need to provide Excellent Customer Service and develop Technology Oriented Products to retain existing customers in not only Metro and Urban areas but also in Semi-urban and Rural areas.

Also due to the limited Services offered by the Payment Banks, Innovation and Strategic Thinking in increasing the Market Share of Low-Cost Deposits is possible and it will **create further challenges** to Commercial Banks in the coming days.

WHITHER FINANCIAL LITERACY!

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01.00 A New Era of Empowerment

Here is interesting narrative that I have come across from the website of 'Humana People to People India'.

Mamta Devi of Rajgarh tehsil in Rajasthan leads her Self Help Group (SHG) of 15 members into various financial literacy sessions conducted under the CRISIL Foundation's Mein Pragati programme.

"Before the programme launched here, none of us were aware of any of the Government schemes designed specifically for women. Very few of us had bank accounts under our name, let alone an insurance scheme," says Mamta. "The programme has come to us as not just a pleasant surprise, but a much needed one."

Mamta's husband works in and around their village as a daily wage labourer. The limited income that the occupation generates has been beset by the construction industry's seasonal pattern in this part of the state and a growing family. Most construction work ceases during the monsoon and, consequently, savings quickly evaporate.

"Most of us kept the money at home in order to have ready access to it in the time of need. But with the Government's direct credit schemes and zero-balance accounts, most of the village residents were lured into opening an account," says Mamta.

"CRISIL Mitras informed us about the significance of maintaining a budget diary and very soon we were able to see the impact it had on our savings. All of us in the SHG have an active bank account now and are availing one or the other insurance scheme," she adds with a hint of pride.

"Almost all of us in the village with a girl child, including me, have also opened a bank account under the Sukanya scheme. By the time she's married, I'm sure you'll be able to click her picture sitting next to her husband without much trouble," she adds with a smile.

And there comes a New Era of Empowerment – just because of Financial Literacy!

02.00 Financial Literacy

Financial literacy refers to the possession of a life skill that allows an individual to make informed and effective decisions with respect to personal financial resources. As globalization and digital technologies made financial products more complex and also easily accessible, financial literacy has become one of the major challenges for countries around the world.

In the Indian context, National Centre for Financial Education perceives Financial Literacy as 'a combination of awareness, knowledge, skill, attitude and behaviour necessary to make sound financial decisions and ultimately achieve individual financial well-being'. Evidently, financial literacy is considered as much about knowledge and skills as it is about behaviour and attitude.

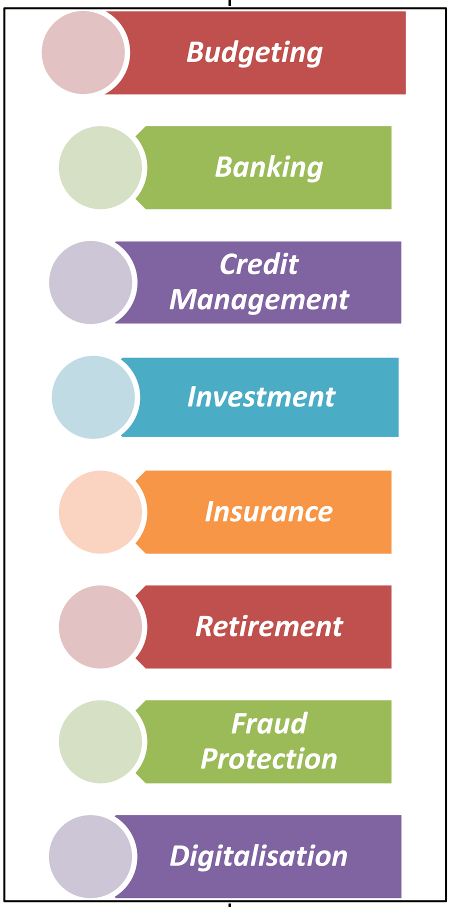
03.00 Key Elements

The key elements financial literacy may be listed as:

- Budgeting
- Banking
- Credit Management
- Investment
- Insurance
- Retirement
- Fraud Protection
- Digitalization

03.01 Budgeting

Budget is a plan of action expressed in terms of money. Budgeting, in relation to personal finances, refers to planning the income and expenses. The idea is to spend within the means and save for the rainy day. The golden rule is 'Expenses shall be less than Income'. The excess of income over expenses, which is known as savings, needs to be parked in gainful investments. It is well said: "Do not save what is left after spending, but spend what is left after saving."



03.02 Banking

In relation to financial literacy, banking refers processing adequate knowledge about dealing with a bank. A bank is a financial institution licensed to accept deposits from public and lend money to the borrowers. The deposits may take the form of savings accounts, term deposit accounts, current accounts or any other such form. Lending could be in the form of personal loans, housing loans, vehicle loans, business loans, and so on. There are several categories of banks such as public sector banks, private banks, cooperative banks, foreign banks, non-banking financial institutions, etc. In India the Banking Sector is regulated by The Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Possession of basic knowledge about banking helps an individual to manage finances in a better and effective manner.

03.03 Credit Management

Credit Management refers to lending the surplus as also borrowing for a need. Due prudence is to be exercised while lending as also while borrowing. Lendable surplus may arise on account of monthly savings or sale of some unwanted assets. The need may be for buying a house, car or education. Due care is warranted in ensuring that the need is productive and not superfluous. Having adequate knowledge about beneficial schemes would be quite handy while borrowing. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) may be cited as two examples in this context. A good lender never loses money in bad debts. A good borrower always repays the debt well in time. Maintaining financial credibility is of utmost importance for financial peace.

03.04 Investment

Every investment is prone to financial risk. The primary fundamental is 'Return and Risk are directly proportional'; viz. higher the return, higher the risk. An enlightened investor should be aware of when to invest, where to invest, how much to invest and when to retreat. The investment could be in financial assets such as deposits, shares, mutual funds, etc. or non-financial assets such as property. Understanding and appreciating the concepts of interest and time value of money is very important. The principles of safety, security and liquidity need to be kept in mind in all investment decisions. The basket of investment should always remain balanced between risk and return.

03.05 Insurance

Insurance refers to personal risk management. In legal terms, insurance is a contract, represented by a policy, in which an individual or entity receives financial protection or reimbursement against losses from an insurance company. Proper insurance provides cover against unforeseen contingencies. It could be life insurance or general insurance. Life insurance provides a financial payment to the beneficiary or the nominee upon the contingency. General insurance covers the policy holder against the risk of wealth and health. Insurance is one element which most of the Indians tend to ignore.

03.06 Retirement

Retirement refers to the life beyond the working age. These are the rainy days that are to be planned for during the sunny days. Younger and middle years of many Indians are filled with numerous demands on time and finances, such as raising children, buying and maintaining a home, enjoying festivities. The relevant fact that is hard to learn is that the time to save money is when you have some. It is wise to think of a proper pension scheme and plan for a secured and sustainable retired life well in time.

03.07 Fraud Protection

Financial frauds are the order of the day. It could be a mass marketing fraud, lottery scam or ponzi chit-fund. Criminals are certainly more intelligent and inventive. Fraudsters and scamsters target people in a variety of ways: through email and on the telephone, when victims are making investments or by stealing personal information. Beware and do not fall prey for any ponzi.

03.08 Digital Transactions

The world has become digital. You can go digital for each of your financial elements – May it be budget, banking, credit management, investment, insurance or retirement provisions. There are umpteen mobile applications easily accessible. For example- Personal budget can be created with the help of websites and apps; Paytm BHIM app is quite powerful; and so forth. It is great to be digital.

03.09 Summing Up

To sum up, understanding basic financial concepts allows people to know how to navigate in the financial system. People with appropriate financial literacy training are found to make better financial decisions and manage money better than those without such training. The lack of financial literacy may lead to making poor financial choices that can have negative consequences on the financial well-being of an individual.

04.00 Bottom Line

Financial Literacy facilitates ease of wealthy and healthy living!

FINANCIAL LITERACY AND CAT COURSE

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The rise of the global COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic repercussions across the Globe. Efforts to comprehend the spreading coronavirus have caused a surge in layoffs, resulting in the loss of jobs in a variety of industries, including restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, airlines, hotels, automakers and manufacturing. The Covid-19 crisis is taking a bigger toll on those in vulnerable situations compared to people enjoying good financial health. And these inequalities, now so evident, are the result of situations that have been brewing for a long time.

Reducing inequality, one of the key points in the UN's SDG agenda (Sustainable Development Goals), has become an even more pressing issue in the midst of this crisis, which is deepening existing social divides across the globe. In this context, it is becoming increasingly necessary to launch adapted programs. And as the corona virus-induced economic slowdown and potential recession it has made everyone reconsidering the stability of their financial circumstances, which now seems like an especially good time to be reminded of the importance of a solid – contemporary – financial education.

The needs, situations and contexts of every population group are different. And financial education programs' contents and objectives should be adapted to each one of these contexts. Before going deep into Financial literacy and its importance let us first understand about what actually financial literacy means in a layman language:

The primary goal behind financial literacy is to help people develop a stronger understanding of basic financial concepts i.e. the way, they can handle their money better. It equips us with the knowledge and skills we need to manage money effectively. This includes being able to save money, distinguish the difference between wants and needs, manage a budget, pay their bills, buy a home, pay for college, and plan for retirement. Without it, our financial decisions and the actions we take or don't take - **lack a solid foundation for success.**

The basic characteristics of being financially literally can be summed up in the following ways: -

- Effective financial planning,
- properly managing debt,
- accurately calculating interest
- understanding the time value of money

Now the question arises How many peoples across the globe are Financially Literate?

More than 20 percent of people polled by the National Financial Educators Council said they don't have anyone to turn to for trusted financial guidance. The findings of the National Financial Capability Test reports that More than half of the participants (68%) in the year 2018 didn't knew the difference between credit cards and debit cards, how to pay income taxes, how home, auto and life insurance work, how student loans works, Difference between Insurance and Investment.

Are you financially literate?

To help you decide whether you should include yourself among the financially literate, think through the following questions and give yourself some honest answers: -

- Do you know how to create a monthly budget that includes all of your basic expenses, your bills, any debts, and your sinking funds for future purchases?
- Are you currently debt-free? Or are you taking active steps to reduce your debts?

- Do you know about how much money you spend to cover living expenses over a period of three to six months?

- Do you have an emergency fund in place that would allow you to get through a sudden large life event like a layoff or a totalled vehicle without having to borrow money?

- Do you have an understanding of how compound interest allows invested money to grow over time?

- Do you know the various kinds of insurance that are needed to protect your finances and investments?

- Do you understand the difference between an investment and insurance?

If you are not able to answer any of the above questions, then you seriously need an hour to re-think about your current state and circumstances for the coming future and this year it could not come at a more difficult time.

April being a Financial Literacy Month, it is an ideal time to share best practices and spotlight programs that successfully encourage emergency savings and benefit both employees and employers. For entire of this year, let's make sure that we all work together to put us on an even keel. More than ever, we need basic skills and good directions as we sail through troubled waters.

Here are some simple ways to help you become financially literate.

- **Hit the Books.** (Any basic fundamental management or financial awareness)

- **Read Magazines and Online Publishers.** (Economic times, Money Control, Livemint and Business standards are most recommended)

- **Use Financial Management Tools.** (Prepare some budget for the next three months and try to adhere to it)

- **Listen to Money Podcasts.**

- **Put Your Maths on ESS.** (Earnings vs Spending vs Savings)

- **Read the Government Resources.** (Current financial market condition and various schemes)

- And last but not the least, **Take a Financial Literacy Course.**

India is empowered with its strength of youth manpower and its time to utilise it efficiently. To meet the huge demand for entry level Accountants in India, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India has come up with one a kind of Financial Literacy course- **CAT (Certificate in Accounting Technicians)** for 10+2 and under graduates. This Course has been introduced in consultation with Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

CAT equip students become well versed with: -

- Maintenance of accounts,

- Preparation of Tax Returns,

- Filling of Returns under Companies Act,

- Filling of Returns under Income Tax, GST, Custom Act,

- Export & Import documentation etc.

A Simple step to remove the inequality and empowering ideal minds to endure the covid crisis is the need of the hour. Stay Safe, Stay healthy and always endeavour for the best.

FINANCIAL AWARENESS – NOW AND AFTER

Shri Subrata Kumar Ray
LLM, DPMIR, FCS
Ex – Company Secretary, MSTC Limited

Nations of whole world regardless of caste, religious, development status, geography etc. are facing the common dilemma, save life or save livelihood. Obviously you need livelihood if you live. The ideal situation could be that let us wait for COVID to end, mourn for death of the people, restart for the people who are surviving as they have to survive. Survival needs resources and resources come from earnings as quite obvious that at one point of time, free resources will end.

Few countries including India have kept those activities alive which are required to provide essentials goods and services. Those in this business are continuing with their earnings and in some cases earning more than normal. However, the majority of sectors are suspended and income is also suspended. The Indian Economy has lost a value of GDP, estimate of which would vary from expert to expert.

The situations with common people is-

a) No income
b) Deferred received of due payments
c) permanent loss of income as the job may not continue.(It is estimated that 50 crore people work in unorganized sector which is threatened)

This would lead to fall in demand and therefore fall in production and ultimate fall in G.D.P which remains to be major parameter for measurement of economy.

Financial Knowledge awareness-how

It is necessary for students, common citizens to be understand the financial terminologies used in newspapers or other media. This will help them to plan their expenditure, tax, capital purchase, investment in shares and other securities, taking loans from banks etc.

The article makes an attempt to facilitate primary level financial literary for Preliminary Finance and Accounts students and citizens who are not, for various reasons, financially literate.

Students of Commerce and Finance need to know certain economic indices, which are published in economic/ business dailies, magazines, etc. One can google the word and find quick answer. The intention to know is important.

These indices talk about various economic status, situations, threats, weakness and may be opportunities.

For easy and quick awareness of the students, few terminologies are discussed which have become important with the present covid-19 situation.

Apart from above, there are many financial terminologies which should be known and understood by all students, citizens, particularly those who invest. Almost all citizens invest to some extent. These terminologies are discussed below.

Inflation: a situation of price rise and reduction of value of money. The price rise is based on the basis of AICP index; with the COVID-19 situation it is expected that inflation. As per last budget, the expected FD was 3.3 % of GDP.
Deflation: the situation of falling price with increase in value of money.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): Foreign direct investment in Indian company, i. e. the investor (individual or company) shall directly invest and take shares in Indian company. This has two routes. one is automatic route where the Indian company can accept remittance and issue shares and file return to RBI. In some cases, prior approval of Central Govt. (ministry is required. On 18th April, Govt. has revised the policy that any investment in Indian companies, directly or indirectly by bordering countries of India would require Central Govt. prior approval.

Ultimate Beneficial Owner: with COVI-19, many foreign companies' intent to acquire shares in Indian companies at low prices, indirectly and directly. SEBI has notified that companies shall keep information and report, subject certain conditions, the ultimate beneficial ownership of the shares of the company. This declaration is mandatory for the shareholders who are not beneficial shareholders.

Crowd Funding: Normally, online funding by a large number of persons within or without identity for a particular cause/purpose. Sometimes, the funding platform charges for campaigning and collection. This is one of the source for funding resources for the COVID effected people. It is estimated that post COVID,
Sovereign Loan: loan by Govt. of India from Foreign sources out of India. If from Indian entities, it called internal debt. If from outside called external debt.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): a certain percentage of of the total bank deposit has to be kept current account with RBI. They will not be able to use that fund. That will reserve**.**

Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): bank need to invest certain percentage of their deposit in specified financial securities of Central Govt. Present rate is 18.5 %.

Repo Rate: Is the interest rate at which RBI lends money to commercial bank: present rate is 4.4%. If it is lowered banks will borrow more and there will more liquidity. (Availability of fund in the system)

Reverse Repo Rate: rate at which RBI would borrows money from commercial bank.an increase in repo rate will reduce money supply present rate is 3.75 This has been reduced w.e.f. 18th April, 2020.

Basis points: the percentage is broken into hundred; also called percentage points. One percentage consists of 100 basis points.

EMI deferment: Due to COVID-19, under the direction from RBI, banks and NBFC shall defer the EMI payment for 3 months as people are having cash flow problem. However, this is only a deferment and not waiver, as the interest on the outstanding amount shall increase and the borrower has to ultimately pay more.

Revenue Deficit: difference between Govt. revenue receipt and revenue expenditure. It means Govt. do not have fund for expenditure.

Fiscal Deficit: shortfall of total Govt. income than its total target expenditure.in the last budget it was estimated as 3.3% of GDP.

Monetization of Deficit: supply of money by printing notes by RBI or converting other assets into cash so that adequate circulation of cash is maintained in the system. This considered as one of the method of demand generation and is being recommended by some economists to tackle demand recession due pandemic.

Refinance: for some categories of finance companies, including banks, companies, RBI and specialised institutions give fund at cheaper rate to finance the retail borrowers. Recently RBI has declared a package for financing the financiers,

Liquidity in Economy: flow of cash in the economic system. More money would generate demand and demand shall generate production of goods and services.

Ways and Means Advance: short term borrowing from RBI by Central/ State Govt.
Moratorium: A cooling period, when no repayment is insisted upon. Under present situation, RBI/ Banks have allowed moratorium for repayment to few classes of companies.

Pay Day Lender: refers to new breed of lenders who will give very short term loan to workers/ employee, normally of the unorganised sector and collect the amount of principal and interest/EMI on the pay day (not always on the same day). They are as high as 1.4-2.5 % per month. Though the concept was existing before the pandemic, it has gained huge importance due cash shortage with the workers. However, the pay day lenders are now very selective about lending.

Apart from the above, there are many financial terminologies which should be known and understand by students, citizens, particularly those who are investors.

Earning Per share (EPS) = Net profit / no of equity Shares. This shows how much each share has earned.

Pay-out Ratio – Dividend amount: Net Profit: dividend is always declared in relation to the face values of shares; face values is the value of shares as recorded in the company without premium. If an investor is concerned more about earning, he should check the pay-out ratio.

Shareholders' Fund – Equity share Capital + Reserves and Surplus (this is created out of profit earned year to year and transferred to reserve after payment of dividend.

PBIDT = Profit Before Interest, Depreciation and Tax (company income tax)

PBDT = Profit Before Depreciation and Tax

PBT = Profit Before Tax

PAT = Profit After Tax – Income Tax (Net Profit) (Distributable to shareholders)

Quarterly results: Investors should check up the quarterly results of the companies, in case of stock exchange listed companies, publication of key financial figures in newspaper is compulsory so that the present and prospective investor is aware about the performance and decide his course of action.

Tax holiday: A time duration fixed by Govt. for few class of business/ companies, when tax shall not be levied even when tax is payable in normal course.

Capital Market: The market where capital instruments (shares, debentures etc.) are bought and sold. This is a non-physical market, almost in virtual mode. The issue of securities from the company to the applicant is called primary market, whereas buying/ selling of existing securities is called secondary market.

ACTIVITIES OF CAT DIRECTORATE

April - May 2020

CAT Directorate of the Institute has started online teaching through Webinars and Online Interactive Sessions in the name of "WEBINT" on a continuous basis for the benefit of the students and other stakeholders of the Institute.

March – 2020

- **Establishment of New ROCCs** - Establishment of four new Regional Oral Coaching Centres (ROCCs), viz. ECLAT International (S-212) in Calicut (Kerala), Masters Education Trust (S-213) in Davangere (Karnataka), Academy for Commerce Aspirants (N-241) in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and CA Ankit Singhal Classes (N-242) in Faridabad (Haryana). The aspirants of CAT course from these cities and nearby places will be benefitted by these ROCCs.

- **Association with BFSI Sector Skill Council of India** - CAT Directorate is regularly following up with BFSI Sector Skill Council of India and Ministry of Corporate Affairs for recommending the alignment of CAT Curriculum of the Institute under National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).

February 2020

- **State Level ROCCs Meet** - On 16th February, 2020, CAT Directorate organised State Level ROCCs Meet at Surat (Gujarat), for the ROCCs based in the Western India Council Region of the Institute. The ROCC Meet was conducted to get valuable feedback directly from the real stakeholders, i.e., from the ROCCs in order to conduct and control the activities related to the CAT course.

- **New ROCCs** – Establishment of new Regional Oral Coaching Centres (ROCCs), viz. Profinz (S-209) in Thrissur (Kerala), Deeksha Academy (S-210) in Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) & Academy for Professional Studies Education and Charitable trust (S-211) in Taliparamba (Kerala). The establishment of these new ROCCs is yet another feat to increase its presence in India and to benefit the aspirants of CAT course from these cities.

- **Meeting with the Dignitaries** - To effectively utilize the potential of the CAT passed students of the Institute in the corporate world CMA Rakesh Singh, Past President of the Institute met the top officials of MSME (UP zone) in Jagdishpur and Labour Commissioner, Kanpur on 4th and 5th February, 2020 respectively. We hope the synergies of the Institute and Government of Uttar Pradesh will help in the betterment of CAT passed students.

- **Association with BFSI Sector Skill Council of India** - CMA Dr. Ashish P. Thatte, Council Member, CMA Rakesh Singh, Past President of the Institute along with officials of the CAT Directorate met Shri Meghdoot Karnik, Chief Operating Officer, BFSI Sector Skill Council (BFSI SSC) of India on 28th February, 2020 at WIRC of the Institute in Mumbai, regarding recognition of the CAT course by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). We are expecting that BFSI SSC would align the CAT course with its Qualification Pack-Accounts Executive and it would also enter into an MOU with the Institute. Shri Meghdoot Karnik assured that BFSI SSC and the

Institute would work together to ensure NSQC clearance for the above mentioned Qualification Pack and would also partner with the Institute to offer the course under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) of the Government of India with a joint certification for the same. We hope BFSI SSC will help to embolden the presence of the CAT course throughout India.

- **Tie-Up with the State Governments** - The Directorate of CAT recently approached many potential states for running the CAT course thereat through the MOUs. The MOUs are under discussion stage.

January 2020

- **State Level ROCCs Meet** - CMA Padmanabhan, Council Member & Chairman, CAT Committee of the Institute has been meeting with the real stakeholders of the CAT course, i.e., the ROCCs on a regular basis. On 24th January, 2020 he spearheaded such meet at Coimbatore, for the ROCCs based in the state of Tamil Nadu. The relevant and valuable feedback so received from the ROCCs is being formulated into an action plan for the future by the CAT Directorate.

- **CAT E-Bulletin** - The Directorate of CAT continued to tap the potential of e-media and released the CAT E-Bulletin Vol 2 No 1 during Global Summit-2020 by the hands of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The e-bulletin is available for reading at CAT Course section of the Institute's website (www.icmai.in).

- **CAT Examination** - Result of the CAT Course examinations-January 2020 term, (Entry Level) Part-I (Level-1) held on 18th January, 2020 was declared within three days' time after the examination was concluded at various locations of the country. CMA Balwinder Singh, President and CMA H. Padmanabhan, Council Member & Chairman, CAT Committee of the Institute congratulated all the successful candidates and urge them to take admission in the CMA course of the Institute since by virtue of passing the Level-1 examination they are eligible to take direct admission in Intermediate Level.

SNAPSHOTS OF CAT ACTIVITIES

CAT e-Bulletin Vol 2 No 1 January 2020 released during Global Summit-2020 by the hands of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

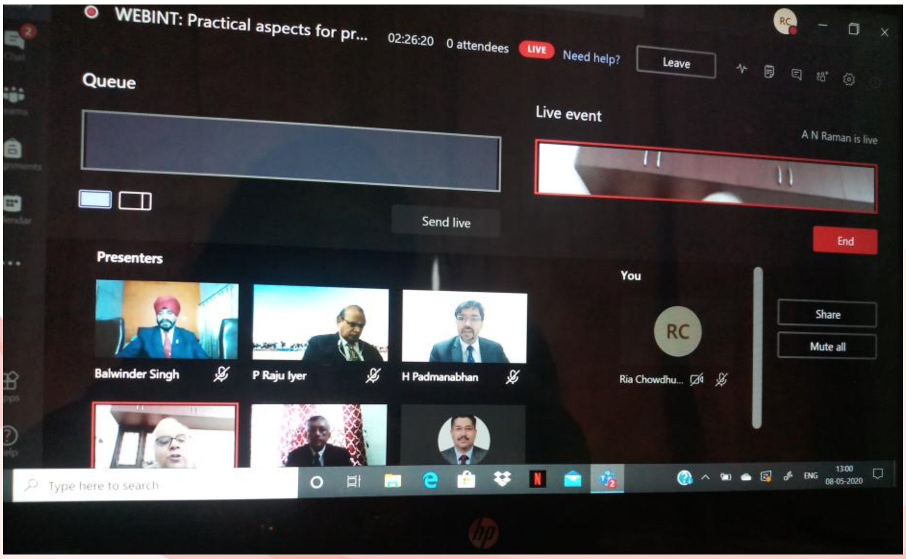
ROCCs Meet at Coimbatore on 24/01/2020

SNAPSHOTS OF CAT ACTIVITIES

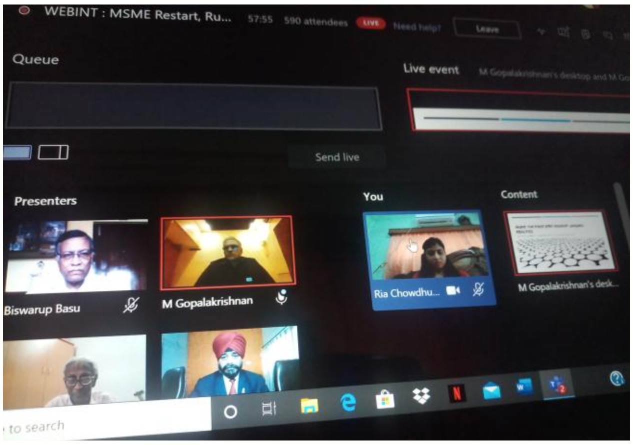
Shri Surajit Dutta, CGM - Finance IRCON International Limited greeted by CMA H Padmanabhan Council Member ICAI in January 2020

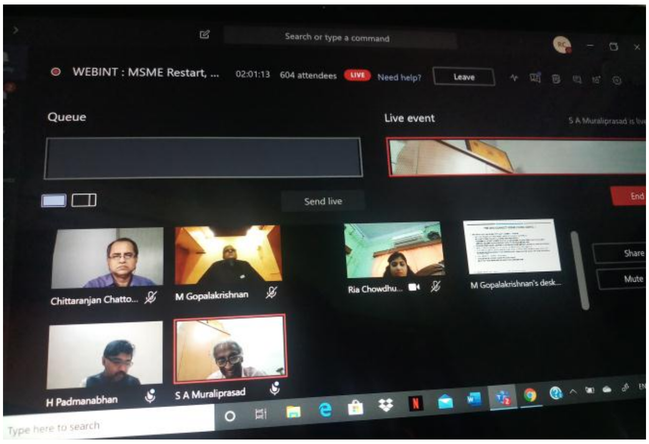
Chapters and ROCCs Meet at Surat on 16/02/2020

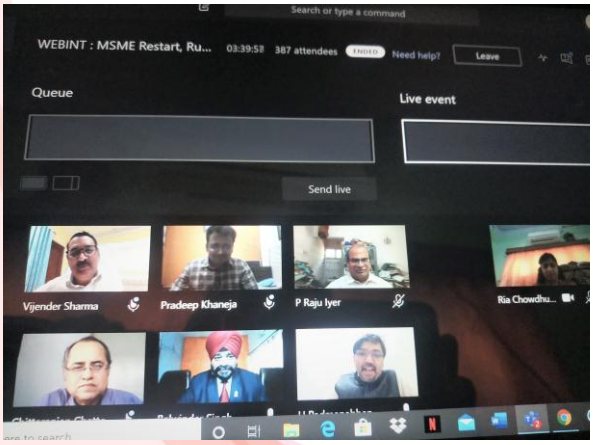
Meeting with Officials of BFSI Sector Skill Council at Mumbai on 28/02/2020

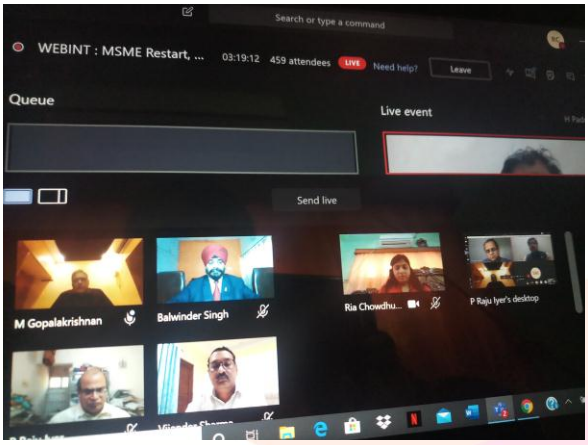


There days Online Interactive Session "WEBINT" on the theme "Practical Aspects for Practising Cost Accountants and Members in Industry in Costing Department" was organised from 6th - 8th May 2020 by CAT & AAT Board in association with Regional Council & Chapters Coordination Committee of the Institute for the benefit of the Members and Students of the Institute









WEBINT on MSME Series on the theme MSME Restart, Run and Sustain on 14th May 2020 organised by CAT & AAT Board in association with Regional Council & Chapters Coordination Committee of the Institute

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THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament

CONTACT DETAILS OF CAT DIRECTORATE

Name	Designation	Phone No.	Email Id	Query Related to
CMA R.K. Jain	Deputy Director	9871769101	cat.hod@icmai.in	Head of Department
CMA Pardeep Khaneja	Deputy Director	9871438400	cat.dd2@icmai.in	Syllabus, Level II Assessment Tests, Exams
CMA Nidhi Verma	Deputy Director	7838803914	cat.dd4@icmai.in	CAT ROCC Related Matters and Examination
CMA Ria Chowdhury	Assistant Director	8981391330	cat.ad1@icmai.in	Counselling, Placements & Webinars
Mr. Varun Joshi	Sr. Officer	9810839836	cat.so1@icmai.in	Student Enquiry, Admission & Registration and Study Material

CERTIFICATE IN ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS (CAT) COURSE

Objective

To meet the huge demand for entry level Accountants in India, ICAI has launched a short term Course - Certificate in Accounting Technicians (CAT) for 12th (10+2) passed and Under Graduates. This Course has been introduced in consultation with Ministry of Corporates Affairs, Government of India. CAT equip students become well versed with the maintenance of accounts, preparation of Tax Returns, Filling of Returns under Companies Act, Filling of Returns under Income Tax, GST, Custom Act, Export & Import documentation etc.

Eligibility

The Students who have passed/appearing 12th (10+2) examination are eligible to take admission in Foundation (Entry Level) Part-I of CAT Course.

Coaching

Institute has Coaching Centres all over India. The Students desirous of pursuing the course have to get admitted in their nearest Regional Council or Chapter or Recognized Coaching Centres (ROCCs) for undergoing Oral Coaching.

Course Details

A) Foundation Course (Entry Level) Part-I
Paper 1: Fundamentals of Financial Accounting.
Paper 2: Applied Business and Industrial Laws
Paper 3: Financial Accounting-2
Paper 4: Statutory Compliance

B) Competency Level – Part-II
(A) Fundamentals of Computers
(B) Filling of Statutory Returns
(C) Introduction to Costing Principles and Preparation of Cost Statements
(D) 5-days Orientation Programme

Internship

The Internship will be for 45 days. The Internship can be taken from organizations prescribed under Internship scheme of CAT Course.

Course Fees:- Rs. 9800/-

Mode of Examination

Multiple choice question to be answered on-line.

Last Date for Admission

For December Term Examination 31st July
For June Term Examination 31st January

May the youth of the country acquire employable skills through CAT Course

THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

Statutory Body under an Act of Parliament

www.icmai.in

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May the youth of the country acquire employable skills through CAT Course