



MSME & Startup Updates

Quarterly e-Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



CA. Gyan Chandra Misra
Chairman
Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to share the initiatives undertaken by the Committee on MSME & Startup during this quarter. Over the past few months, our efforts have been focused on strengthening connections across the ecosystem, building meaningful collaborations and extending practical support to MSMEs and startups across the country.

During the quarter, the Committee conducted several important national and international events and programs for capacity building of MSME & Startups, including the NEXTLEAP startup acceleration program and Strategic Stakeholders Meet. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas on fintech, innovation, and cross-border entrepreneurship, while opening new avenues for MSME & Startup growth and acceleration.

One of the key milestones of this quarter was the successful conduction of the ICAI MSME Connect Stakeholder Strategic Meet 2025. The meet brought

together policymakers, regulators, financial institutions and ecosystem partners, and witnesses the announcement and pan India launch of the ICAI MSME Clinic Program. This weekly, pro-bono initiative aims to offer accessible, on ground advisory support to MSMEs through ICAI branches and Regional Offices across the country.

The Committee also continued to strengthen institutional partnerships through strategic collaborations, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited, Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer, IIT Delhi to encourage digital payment adoption and collaborate in the areas of innovation, startups and entrepreneurship creating incubation and acceleration programs, as well as joint initiatives with the Ministry of MSME for conducting Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs in various regions.

I am confident that our continued engagement and collaborative approach will further strengthen ICAI's role as a trusted knowledge partner and growth catalyst for MSMEs and Startups in India.



CA. Arpit Kabra
Vice-Chairman
Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI

Dear Members and Colleagues,

This quarter has been focused on translating intent into action through stronger outreach and practical engagement with the MSME and Startup ecosystem Stakeholders. The Committee on MSME & Startup has prioritized initiatives that enable Chartered Accountants to play a more active role in advisory, capacity building, and institutional collaboration.

The Pan-India rollout of the ICAI MSME Clinic on 10th December, 2025 has been a significant step in creating regular, structured touchpoints between members and MSMEs at the grassroots level. In addition, Participation in Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit 2025, and the

Message from the Vice-Chairman

NEXTLEAP startup acceleration program has provided valuable exposure to the dynamic startup ecosystem through interactions with key stakeholders, offering insights into innovation trends and global business opportunities. Meanwhile, the NEXTLEAP startup acceleration program facilitated hands-on learning on evolving business models and fintech advancements, with a strong focus on scaling strategies and cross-border growth prospects.

Our collaborations with the Ministry of MSME and the signing of MoU with Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer, IIT Delhi (FIIT) and NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited further strengthen the framework for digital adoption, financial inclusion, and implementation driven support for entrepreneurs. I am confident that these initiatives will continue to enhance professional relevance for our members while contributing meaningfully to the growth of MSMEs and startups.



91-011-30110569



msme.icai.org, startup.icai.org



msme@icai.in, startup@icai.in

Initiatives of Committee on MSME & Startup ICAI

The Committee has undertaken several significant activities during this quarter to enhance professional development and Knowledge sharing with in the MSME & Startup Ecosystem. These activities include the following:

Empowering MSMEs through Strategic Collaboration with the Ministry of MSME

The Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI, has initiated a strategic collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, to conduct Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programmes (ESDPs) across the country. Under this initiative, District Facilitation Offices (DFOs) have been advised to work with ICAI for organising Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs (EAPs), E-SDPs, and Management Development Programs (MDPs), leveraging ICAI's extensive network to enhance financial literacy, compliance awareness, and entrepreneurial skills among MSMEs.



As part of this collaboration, several programs have already been conducted. These include a National Seminar on **"Export Promotion & Digital Marketing"** organized by the MSME-DFO, Kolkata on **11 November 2025**, with ICAI facilitating expert faculty, and ESDP sessions on Financial Management conducted by ICAI resource persons in **Madla and Jabalpur on 17-18 November 2025** in association with MSME-DFO, Rewa, a One-Day Awareness Campaign on MSME Schemes/EAP scheduled to be held at Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) **Deegal, District Solan on 11th December, 2025**. These initiatives reflect the Committee's continued commitment to strengthening the capabilities and growth of MSME's across India.



NEXTLEAP Program in Collaboration with ICAI Singapore Chapter

The Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI, in collaboration with the ICAI Singapore Chapter and BeyondSeed, successfully conducted NEXTLEAP- a flagship startup acceleration program commemorating 60 years of India- Singapore diplomatic relations. The 8 week program supported early stage startups through structured mentorship, cross- border networking, market access, and investor readiness, culminating in a **Demo Day held on 20 November 2025 in Singapore**.



A total of 44 startups registered for the programs including 38 from India. The Demo day featured the Top 10 startup pitches, with 7 Indian startups reaching the final round. The top 3 trailblazing startups of the programs were Aeronero Solutions, eMSME, and Seamless XR. The initiative marked a significant milestone in fostering cross-border entrepreneurship and creating global growth opportunities for emerging startups.

ICAI MSME Connect Stakeholders Strategic Meet 2025

The Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI successfully organized the ICAI MSME Connect Stakeholders Strategic Meet 2025 on **24th October 2025 at Le Meridien, New Delhi, in the presence of the Chief Guest, Smt. Smriti Irani, Former Union Minister in the Government of India**. The event was preceded by a one-hour press meet attended by 18 media representatives.



Over 80 stakeholders from more than 60 organizations including Ministries, Regulators, Financial Institutions, Industry bodies, and incubators participated in discussions on accelerating growth, digital transformation, innovation, and collaboration within the MSME and startup ecosystem.

A key highlight of the event was the **signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FIIT, IIT Delhi, in the esteemed presence of the C.A Charanjot Singh Nanda, President of ICAI.**

The MoU with NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL) focuses on promoting digital payment adoption among MSMEs, Startups, and ICAI members through knowledge sharing and Joint initiatives leveraging NBBL's digital payment Platform.

The MoU with FIIT, IIT Delhi aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship through collaboration in technology commercialization, startup incubation and acceleration, intellectual property management, and industry academia engagement, supporting investment led growth.

The signing of these MoUs during the ICAI MSME Connect Stakeholders Strategic Meet 2025 marks a significant step towards building a robust innovation driven, and digitally empowered MSME and Startup ecosystem in the country.



During this meeting, Committee on MSME and Startup, **released ICAI MSME & Startup Conclave Report 2025 and Coffee Table Book on ICAI MSME Mahotsav 2025**.

ICAI MSME Mahotsav 2025 was recognized by the World Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, and the India Book of Records.

Inauguration of ICAI MSME Clinic throughout ICAI Branches

Following the announcement on 24 October 2025 during the Stakeholder Strategic Meet, the Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI formally inaugurated the **ICAI MSME Clinic** on a pan India basis on **10th December 2025**. The inauguration was held in the presence of senior representatives from the Ministry of MSME, GeM, NSIC, SIDBI, State MSME departments, ICAI Branches and Regional Offices, and other key stakeholders.

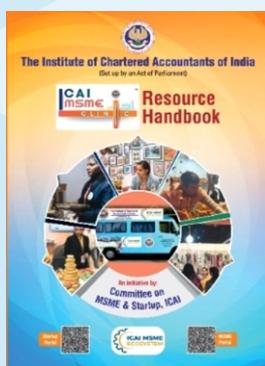
The ICAI MSME Clinic is a weekly, walk in, Pro bono advisory initiative hosted at ICAI Branches and Regional Offices across India. Designed as a one stop support platform, the clinics provide



guidance to MSMEs in areas such as finance, compliance, accounting, technology adoption, operations, human resources, and marketing, with the objective of strengthening India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The clinics are conducted every Friday, preferably between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

Resource Handbook for ICAI MSME Clinic



The *Resource Handbook for ICAI MSME Clinic* is a comprehensive publication of the Committee on MSME & Startup, officially released on **10th December 2025** during the inaugural session of the ICAI MSME Clinic. ICAI, developed as a core knowledge support under the ICAI MSME Clinic initiative. The Handbook is conceived as a structured, practical, and entrepreneur-friendly reference to assist MSMEs and startups seeking guidance at ICAI MSME Clinics across the country. It brings together critical aspects of the MSME and startup ecosystem, including statutory and regulatory compliances, Income Tax and GST provisions, receivables financing through TReDS, government-backed subsidy and incentive schemes, startup-specific benefits, accounting and bookkeeping systems, digital marketing adoption, and practical solutions to common business challenges. The content has been curated with a strong focus on usability, incorporating simplified explanations, procedural guidance, checklists, dos and don'ts, and real-world problem-solving approaches to enable effective on-the-spot advisory support by Chartered Accountants at the MSME Clinics. By equipping entrepreneurs with clear insights into compliance requirements, funding and subsidy opportunities, technology adoption, and informed decision-making, the Handbook

aims to reduce regulatory complexity and enhance business confidence. Through this initiative, the Committee on MSME & Startup seeks to institutionalize a robust knowledge framework and reinforce ICAI's role as a trusted professional partner and enabler of sustainable, compliant, and scalable growth for MSMEs and startups across India.

Publication on State-Specific MSME Policies

The State-Specific MSME Policies were officially released on **10th December 2025** during the inaugural session of the ICAI MSME Clinic. These handbooks, developed as part of the Committee's ongoing efforts to support MSMEs and startups, provide detailed insights into the unique opportunities, regulatory frameworks, and schemes available across each state in India. The publication contains state-specific



policies for all 28 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs), along with FAQs for each. By offering state-specific policies, the Committee aims to enhance the knowledge and capacity of MSMEs, empowering them to navigate challenges and seize growth opportunities at the local level. This initiative complements the ICAI MSME Clinic, a pro-bono, weekly advisory service designed to address the core challenges faced by MSMEs, encompassing



areas such as finance, technology, human resources, operations, and marketing. The release of these state-specific resources marks a key milestone in the Committee's mission to drive sustainable MSME development and empowerment across the country.

Events organized by the Committee and hosted by various ICAI branches

- **Investor Awareness:** Hosted by Coimbatore Branch
- **Seminar on MSME Empowerment and Financial Readiness:** Hosted by Varanasi Branch
- **Seminar on Compliance Essentials for MSMEs: Understanding GSTR9 & 9C:** Hosted by Patna Branch
- **Role of CA in the Startup Ecosystem:** Hosted by Raipur Branch
- **Full Day Seminar on Empowering and Automation of MSME's:** Hosted by Jaipur Branch
- **Seminar on MSME:** Hosted by Jalandhar Branch
- **Seminar on Direct Tax:** Hosted by Patna Branch
- **Full Day Seminar on MSME:** Hosted by Kota Branch
- **Full Day Seminar on MSME & Startup Eco System Opportunities, Finance and Compliance:** Hosted by Bhilai Branch
- **Full Day Seminar on MSME & Startup:** Hosted by Faridabad Branch

Participation in Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit 2025

The Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI, in collaboration with StartupTN, participated in the Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit (TNGSS) 2025, which was held on **9th and 10th October 2025**, at the CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex in Coimbatore. The summit provided a platform to showcase innovation, enable policy dialogue, and strengthen partnerships within the startup and MSME ecosystem.



ICAI featured a 20x10 ft exhibition stall under the Government of India Pavilion in Hall B, alongside key stakeholders such as NITI Aayog, Startup India, MeitY, Ministry of MSME, RBIH, ARAI, and leading state and institutional innovation centres. Through its participation, ICAI actively engaged with government, academia, research, and industry, reinforcing its role in supporting MSME and startup growth.

Participation in Global Fintech Fest 2025

The Committee on MSME & Startup participated in the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025, held from **7-9 October 2025 at the Jio World Centre, Mumbai**. Organized by the Payments Council of India (PCI), NPCI, and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), GFF is a premier global platform bringing together fintech leaders, policymakers, and innovators.

CA Gyan Chandra Misra, Chairman, Committee on MSME & Startup delivered a Keynote address in the session "Bharat Connect for Business: Enabling Growth and Transformation for Businesses through Collaboration". Alongside industry leaders from Zoho, Tally Solutions, and HSBC. The session highlighted the role of fintech and AI in advancing financial inclusion of MSMEs and underscored the importance of collaboration within the fintech ecosystem.



ICAI MSME Pathshala Series- Capacity Building Through Knowledge Sessions

ICAI MSME Pathshala Series has been conducted every Friday as part of a sustained effort to build capacity and enhance member engagement in the MSME and Startup ecosystem. The series is designed to equip Chartered Accountants and professionals with in-depth knowledge of MSME policies, compliance, sectoral opportunities, and regional schemes. It serves as a continuous learning platform to empower CAs to become effective growth partners for MSMEs across India. The weekly webinars under the MSME Pathshala Series 2.0 continued to ensure consistent knowledge dissemination and witnessed encouraging participation from members across the country. During this period, webinars were organised on Subsidies in Setting Up **GCC in Maharashtra**, **Financial Schemes and Norms for MSMEs**, and **Opportunities for CAs as MSMEs' Growth Partners**, covering critical policy, financial, and professional growth aspects relevant to the MSME ecosystem.



MSME Portal:
msme.icai.org



Registration Link:
<https://wofa.icai.org/>



Startup Portal:
startup.icai.org



Committee on MSME & Startup, ICAI

ICAI Bhawan, P.B. No.7100, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi- 110 002, India



91-011-30110569



msme.icai.org, startup.icai.org



msme@icai.in, startup@icai.in