Ritanya Sanstha

A decade-old effort connecting India's alumni and professional communities

ritanyasanstha.in alumbond.in openear.in

Subject: An invitation to help your members find a peer community that stands beside them, through CAConnect

Dear Sir / Madam,

Every chartered accountant in India belongs to something extraordinary on paper: a single, powerful, statutory Institute that examines, certifies, and disciplines the entire profession. And yet, ask an article trainee still at their desk past midnight during audit season, or an independent practitioner in a small town with no one to call when a client walks away, and you will hear that representation is not the same as belonging. ICAI protects the profession's standards; it was never built to be the family a CA turns to at midnight. In September 2024, the death of a 26 year old chartered accountant at an EY India office in Pune, reported by her family to have followed months of unrelenting overwork, became a national reckoning point, and ICAI's own response, a newly formed stress management group, was itself an admission that no such support had existed before.

I write to you as the founder of Ritanya Sanstha. My conviction about chartered accountants does not rest on a study alone. It comes from 25 years in banking, project finance, and financial management, spent working directly alongside chartered accountants at every stage, from article trainees taking their first look at a balance sheet to the senior most partners of India's leading CA firms. I have watched this profession closely for a quarter of a century, and what I have seen firsthand is exactly what this letter describes: extraordinary technical rigour, and very little of the peer support that holds a person up rather than simply testing them.

At IIT Roorkee, this same instinct built something real: over 10,000 alumni connected at zero cost, entirely volunteer run, organised into 12 Houses across roughly 70 WhatsApp groups. You can view the **AlumBond brochure here**. CAConnect brings that same platform, and that same family feeling, to chartered accountants nationwide, whether three months into articleship, ten years into independent practice, or moving from practice into industry.

> **OUR OFFER TO YOU**
>
> Any article trainee, chartered accountant, or independent practitioner in your fold can join CAConnect individually, and anyone ready to join can **register here**. We ask only that you help your members discover it: a mention in your newsletter, a notice at your branch, or a shared link with your members and article trainees.
>
> If your association would welcome a deeper partnership, such as a co-branded rollout for your region or branch, we would be glad to discuss what would work best for you.

We ask only this: allow us to introduce CAConnect to your members and article trainees, and let those who want a peer community of their own come find one. The enclosed note explains what this has proven, why the profession needs it now, and how it could work alongside your association.

Vishnu Kant

linkedin.com/in/vishnu-kant-0aa1b6208

Founder, ritanyasanstha.in, alumbond.in, nyaykendra.in and openear.in

ritanyasanstha.in · admin@ritanyasanstha.in

Enclosed: a short note on why chartered accountants need this now, what it has already proven at IIT Roorkee, why a unified community matters even where a single strong regulator already exists, and how this could work alongside your association.

A Founder's Note: Why Chartered Accountants Need This Now

I am not a chartered accountant. But over 25 years in banking, project finance, and financial management, I have worked directly alongside chartered accountants at every level, from article trainees preparing their first schedules to the senior most partners of major firms and consultancies. What follows is what that quarter century has shown me firsthand, alongside what is independently documented beyond my own observation.

What I have watched, repeatedly and across every generation of CA I have worked with, is a young article trainee who is technically superb and almost entirely without anyone senior to turn to on a bad day, and a senior partner who has spent so long being the person everyone else leans on that there is no one left for them to lean on in turn. That pattern is not a single firm's failing; I have seen it across enough firms and years to believe it is structural.

5.66%

CA Intermediate combined pass rate, Sept 2024 cycle

10.97%

CA Final combined pass rate, Jan 2026 cycle

Sept 2024

A 26-year-old CA's death at EY Pune, reported as following months of overwork, became a national reckoning point

New, 2024

ICAI's own stress-management group and proposed counselling helpdesk, formed only after that case

The pass rates above mean thousands of young CAs repeat an attempt each cycle, largely alone, and ICAI itself has acknowledged, through the stress-management group formed in the EY case's wake, that no structured peer support existed before. This is not a criticism of ICAI's regulatory role, which is genuinely strong and unusually unified. It is an observation that regulation and belonging are different things, and the profession has, so far, mostly had the first. What has filled the gap is a patchwork of CAclubindia forums, exam-batch WhatsApp and Telegram groups, and city-level study circles, organised around a topic or an exam attempt rather than a person's ongoing career, and ICAI has itself had to warn members against unauthorised WhatsApp groups spreading fake notices.

What This Has Proven at IIT Roorkee

10,000+	Rs 0	100%	12 Houses
alumni connected on one deployment	cost to any member, ever	volunteer run, no paid staff	of activity, from 70 WhatsApp groups

Why WhatsApp alone was not enough

WhatsApp groups gave IIT Roorkee alumni instant conversation, but with real limits. Group size was capped. A few vocal, highly energetic members often crowded out quieter, more sincere ones. Heavy admin control sometimes meant a group simply reflected the personality of whoever ran it. And official forums, whether run by the institute or a formal alumni body, faced a familiar problem: much like a residents' welfare association, new initiatives tended to fade the moment office bearers changed.

The Virtual Family

After several years of experimenting with different models, a community of IIT Roorkee volunteers set out to build an unofficial "virtual family": a community ready for instant help, conducive to personal and professional support, and strong enough to enable real collective effort.

What began as a few WhatsApp groups soon grew into a dozen communities housing about 70 groups, covering both personal and professional needs. With loud, attention seeking posts brought under control, this became, by far, the community's most successful experience. Even so, WhatsApp remained a suboptimal home for work of this scale.

From WhatsApp to a platform, and now to chartered accountants

That is how AlumBond was born. Built with sustained investment of time and effort by the volunteer community, it grew into a rules and algorithm based platform covering instant help, mentoring, jobs, start ups, think tanks and several other areas of mutual support, all running on one shared, purpose built technology. CAConnect is the same technology, built to do for chartered accountants what AlumBond has already done for one institute's alumni.

Why a Unified Community Matters, Even With One Strong Regulator

Doctors' problem is fragmentation: many bodies, no single family. Chartered accountancy's problem is the opposite shape but the same result: one strong, unified regulator, and still no family. A profession can have excellent standards and discipline and still leave its newest and most isolated members, an article trainee working alone in an unfamiliar city, a solo practitioner three hundred kilometres from the nearest branch office, without anyone to call at eleven at night.

> *A profession this central to India's economy cannot rely on regulation alone to hold its people together. What it needs is not another compliance portal, but a community that is still there the day after an exam result, a client loss, or a hard year.*

What a connected, non-partisan community offers

A community built by CAs themselves, for each other, free of any firm's or association's politics, is free to focus purely on what members actually need: instant peer support when someone asks for it, mentorship across seniority and specialisation, warm client and work referrals in place of cold outreach, and a network confidential enough for the burnout conversations the profession has only recently begun having in public.

How This Could Work With Your Association

Two ways to help your members, your choice

For any CA or article trainee, right now

Every member can join CAConnect individually by registering here. No approval from any association is needed.

For your association

An optional, deeper co-branded partnership, if your council or branch wants a dedicated rollout for your members.

Our commitment to your association

100% private, always

No member data shared with any employer, client, or third party.

Open to every CA

Any article trainee, chartered accountant, or independent practitioner can join, regardless of firm or seniority.

Partnership stays optional

Your association's endorsement is welcome but never required for a member to join.

Runs independent of any firm or office

Members who join keep the community going themselves, unaffected by who currently holds office in your association or which firm they work for.

Getting started

1. Any member can register here independently, choosing CAConnect.
2. They join a WhatsApp community organised by specialty, city, or career stage: articleship, independent practice, large firm, or industry.
3. If your association wants a deeper partnership, we would be glad to discuss a co-branded rollout for your region or branch.

We would be glad to speak with you or your members and article trainees at any time. Write to **admin@ritanyasanstha.in**.