

## CA body lays down road map to revise syllabus

Students joining their chartered accountancy course through common proficiency test or articleship through direct entry scheme across India will have to gear up to study the revamped syllabus. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) taking note of the outdated nature of some subjects taught to prospective CA students has taken up the work of revising CA syllabus in right earnestness and will complete the process in six months.

Taking note of the need for constant revision of CA curriculum, the ICAI has set up groups and sub-groups across India to overhaul the syllabus that was last revamped in 2008. The work of revising the syllabus is expected to be completed in six months based on inputs received from various groups and sub-groups working on it. ICAI will then need at least six months to prepare revised course material and host it on its website for students to download.

Vijay Kapur, director, board of studies, ICAI who was in the city recently for Dishaa, a two-day state-level CA students' meet, told TOI, "We have found that information technology related papers of the course are outdated. The groups are working on updating it. The income tax paper is more dynamic in the sense that it gets refined as it is defined by the finance bill that is passed after each general budget adopted by the Centre."

Students who take their CA group examinations a year down the line will have to do so under the revised syllabus. The Parliament conferred the powers on ICAI to revise the syllabus in 2000 and the apex body that governs CA profession in the country has done so twice - in 2006, and 2008. This is essential given that 15,000 CAs come out each year through the system against a requirement of two lakh, he added.

To develop the soft skills of the aspirants, ICAI has also made it mandatory for CA students, who have joined the course post May 1 this year, to undergo two sets of general management and communication skills course. The first set of the course, which is of two-week duration, will be offered prior to students entering their article ship and second in the last 18 months of their training, he said.

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