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

iCMA

Headquarters:
CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003
Website: www.icmai.in

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

Board of Discipline u/s 21A of The Cost Accountants Act, 1959

Final order number: ICMAI/BOD/2026/42

Complaint number	Com-21/CA(143)/2024
In the matter of	CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi (M/30434) [Complainant] Vs. CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N. Murthy (M/13338) [Respondent]
Date of Hearing	As per records and order sheet
Date of order	3rd July, 2026

CORAM:

1	Shri P.K. Pujari, IAS (Retd)	Presiding Officer
2	CMA (Dr.) Ashish Thatte	Member

PRESENT

1	CMA(Dr) Hemant Kumar Sindhwani	Director (Discipline)

Brief facts of the Case

1. The Disciplinary Directorate was in receipt of a complaint in Form I in triplicate dated 15th July 2024 (received at office on 18th July 2024) together with the prescribed complaint fee from CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant"), bearing membership number 30434 containing allegation against CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N. Murthy (hereinafter referred to as the "respondent") bearing membership number 13338 (hereinafter referred to as "the respondent") containing certain allegations against the respondent falling under various provisions of the Cost Accountants Act, 1959.
2. The complaint consists of 13 pages, accompanied by a annexures with the enclosed which is reproduced below in verbatim:

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India Board of Discipline

Kolkata Office: CMA Bhawan, 12, Sudder Street, Kolkata - 700016 I Noida Office: CMA Bhawan, C-42, Sector - 62, Noida - 201309

FORM I
[See sub-rule (1) of Rule 3]

1.	Name of the complainant : (with membership number, if member of institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India)	RAGHAVENDER REDDY KANDADI Membership number 30434
2.	Name of the member/firm against whom complaint is being made: (with membership number/registration number of the firm, if known)	MURTHY. K Ch A V S N Membership number 13338
3.	Latest Address of complainant for communication	8-2-277/A/5/203. APURUPA APARTMENT. ROAD NO 2 BANJARA HILLS, HYDERABAD 500034
4.	Latest available address of member against whom complaint is made.	8-3-976/29, Shalivahana Nagar, Srinagar Colony post Hyderabad 500073
5.	Particulars of Allegation (s) serially numbered together with corresponding clause/part of relevant schedule(s), or Particulars of Allegation(s) serially numbered together with corresponding clause/part of relevant schedule(s) under which the alleged acts of commission of omission or both would fall.	1. Using our Institute Logo/Emblem in election Manifesto,which is institute resource and cannot be used for electioneering as per 7(i) of Election Code.. 2. As per procedure Certified copy of Manifesto to be submitted to Returning Officer (RO). If RO got the same with LogcYEmblem and still allowed his nomination, it is a case of conspiracy else if RO got the same without Logo/Emblem then it is fraud against the institute and Members (either of that needs to be verified from RO) including forensic test. (pdf file of email and Manifesto enclosed separately). 3. Annexture is enclosed with additional details with particulars of complaints and evidence thereof including screen shots and a pdf file enclosed separately.
6.	Particulars of Evidences abducted in support of the allegations made.	Manifesto & email to members requesting to vote. The said email is forwarded for verification and forensic test as well.
7.	Names of persons who have knowledge of the facts of the case.	
8.	Particulars of DD for Rs.2950 in favour of Institute of Cost Accountants	

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	of India payable at New Delhi	

3. The above complaint was scrutinized and was registered in terms of Rule 5 of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigation of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007 and the same was proceeded with in the manner as prescribed in Chapter III of the Rules and was registered by the Disciplinary Directorate by giving a unique number, Complaint No. Com/21-CA(143)/2024.
4. The complaint dated 15th July, 2024 was duly forwarded to the respondent vide letter No. G/DD/Com-CA(143)/(FRN000180)/01/12/2024 dated 06th August, 2024 requesting the respondent to respond within 21 days from the date of service of the said letter, but no responses has been received from the respondent.
5. The respondent, vide letter dated 23rd September, 2025 served on 26th September, 2025 sent his written statement containing of 33 pages, which is reproduced below in verbatim:

Quote

From
CMA K. CH. A. V. N. Murthy (Mno. 13338)
8-3-976/29, Shailivahana Nagar
Srinagar Colony Post
Hyderabad-500073

Date: 23/9/2025

To,
Director (Discipline)
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
CMA Bhawan, 3 Institutional Area
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

Sub:- Com/21-CA(143)/2024 - in the matter of CMA Ragavender Ready Kandadi (M/30434) [Complainant) Vs. CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N. Murthy (M/ 13338) [Respondent]

Dear Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter Ref. No. G/DD/Com/21-CA(143)/2025/RC1/02 dated 6th August 2025 received by me on 8th August 2025 on the captioned subject matter requesting me to submit my 'defence submission' within 21 days from the date of service of the letter. Subsequently, an email dated 26th August 2025 was sent praying for extension of time and extension of 30 days' time was kindly granted by your good self.

On a careful perusal of the provisions of Rule 8(3) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of professional and other Misconduct and Conduct of cases) Rules, 2007 under which the alleged complaint has been forwarded, it is observed that the words '**defence submission'** is conspicuous by its absence. Nowhere in Rule 8(3) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of professional and other Misconduct

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and Conduct of cases) Rules, 2007 the words **'defence submission'** appear. In fact, these words do not appear even in sub-rules (4) and (5) of Rule 8 of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of professional and other Misconduct and Conduct of cases) Rules, 2007. What appears in Rule 8(3) are the words 'written statement' which the respondent is obligated to submit within 21 days. It is not known whether the words **'defence submission'** has a different connotation vis-a-vis the expression **'written statement'**. Notwithstanding such anomaly in the usage of the words and assuming that by the words **'defence submission'**, the learned Director (Discipline) means **'written statement'**, the present reply is being submitted pursuant to Rule 8(3) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of professional and other Misconduct and Conduct of cases) Rules, 2007 which is to be construed as a written statement.

1. At the outset, while I deny all the allegations levelled by the complainant in the alleged complaint, I would like to state that this complaint is false, baseless and arises out of political vendetta. I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that a complaint very similar and analogous in nature, fact and content was filed against me by one Shri Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar on 14th September 2020. The said complaint was registered by the Disciplinary Directorate vide Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020. The said complaint was disposed of by the Hon'ble Board of Discipline and all order to this effect was communicated vide letter No .G /BOD/Order-Com(98)/1/11/2022 dated 26th November 2022 by the then Presiding Officer of the Board of Discipline. A copy of the said order is enclosed herewith as **Annexure "A"**.
2. Since an analogous complaint has already been disposed of by the Board of Discipline, the instant complaint should be quashed and placed before the Hon'ble Board of Discipline for its closure. In this regard, Rule 5(4)(c) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of professional and other Misconduct and Conduct of cases) Rules 2007 specifically provides that "If orders have already been passed by the Board of Discipline or the Committee on such a previous complaint, then the Director shall present the new complaint before the Board of Discipline for its closure."
3. In fact, the instant complaint should be disposed of on this ground alone that an order dismissing the previous complaint made by Shri Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar has been passed by the Hon'ble Board of Discipline in favour of the respondent. However, I would like to bring to your kind notice that the instant complainant namely CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi has knocked all possible doors of the Judicial forums available to him, including the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad on the **same subject matter**. However, the said complainant had to return empty handed from all the Judicial Forums as the complaint was based on incorrect, concocted and false and distorted facts.
4. The complainant had filed a Writ petition (No. 2652 of 2021) with the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana at Hyderabad which was dismissed by the said Court. The operative part of the Order dated 14th September 2022 reads as follows:
   "It is also relevant to note that 4th respondent has been continued from June, 2019 and his tern1 is going to expire in May, 2023. Even then, the petitioner herein has Filed the present writ petition Only on 02.02.2021 instead of Filing dispute under Section 10(A) of the Act within thirty days from the date of election. Viewed from any Angle, this writ petition is dismissed." A copy of the said order is enclosed herewith as **Annexure "B."**

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5. Undeterred by such dismissal by the Single Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Telengana at Hyderabad, the complainant preferred an appeal before the Division Bench of the same High Court by way of Writ Appeal No. 87 of 2023 against the Order dated 4th September 2022 praying for suspension of the operation of the Order dated 14th September 2022 of the Learned Single Judge. However, after hearing of the matter at some length, the complainant sought leave to withdraw the writ petition. The operative part of the Order dated 10th February 2023 reads as follows:
"After hearing the matter at some length, learned counsel for the appellant seeks leave to withdraw the writ appeal. Leaue granted. Writ Appeal is accordingly dismissed on withdrawal." A copy of the said order is enclosed herewith as **Annexure "C."**
6. From the foregoing, it is crystal clear that the complainant harbours deep animosity and loathe against the undersigned, arising out of political vendetta which makes him knock the doors of various Judicial/ Quasi-Judicial forums, knowing fully well that the case has no merit. CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi (M/30434) is a habitual complainant and the above factual details only reveal the extent of vindictiveness of the complainant.

Prayer

i. The complaint be quashed and placed before the Hon'ble Board of Discipline for its closure in terms of Rule 5(4)(c) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of professional and other Misconduct and Conduct of cases) Rules, 2007 and the judgements of the Hon'ble High Court of Telengana at Hyderabad.
ii. Disciplinary proceedings be initiated against CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi (M/30434) under the relevant provisions of the Cost and Works Accountant Act. 19959 and the rules framed thereunder for unnecessarily harassing the respondent and for wasting the precious time of the Disciplinary Directorate.

I Hope that this reply and contents are in order

Thank you
Your Sincerely
MURTHY. K Ch A V S N

Unquote

7. The written statement dated 23rd September, 2025 was forwarded to the complainant under the cover of letter No. G/DD/Com-CA(143)/C-02/03 dated 9th October 2025 for filing his rejoinder in terms of sub-rule (4) of Rule 8 of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigation of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007.
8. The Complainant, vide letter dated 29th October,2025 served on 3rd November, 2025 submitted his Rejoinder containing of 8 pages, which is reproduced below in verbatim:

Quote

Respected Director (Discipline) — Dated 29th October, 2025
Disciplinary Directorate
Institute of Cost Accountants of India
New Delhi India

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
Board of Discipline

Sub: Complaint No Com/21-CA(143)/2024 dated 15th July 2024
Ref : No. G/DD/Com-CA(143)/C-02/03 dated 9th October 2025, posted on 15th October 2025 and received on 21st October 2025

I am submitting following points with reference to reference mentioned above.

1. At the outset, I strongly object and deny the explanations given and the averments made by the respondent CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy in his reply, in response to your letter to him forwarding the complaint and seeking explanation.

2. It is noted from your letter, referred to above, that the respondent had sent his response as above, to Director Discipline by a letter dated 23 September 2024. If it were to be true, why Disciplinary Directorate contacted me after more than one year on 09th October 2025, forwarding the said response to me and seeking my rejoinder. This sounds something upsetting.

3. "THE COST AND WORKS ACCOUNTANTS ACT, 1959. 10A. Settlement of disputes regarding election. –In case of any dispute regarding any Election under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 9, the aggrieved person may make an application within thirty days from the date of declaration of the result of election to the Secretary of the Institute, who shall forward the same to the Central Government." And "aggrieved person" is defined u/s 2(b) of The Cost Accountant (Election Tribunal) Rules 2006."aggrieved person" means a person who contested that Election to the Council to which the dispute pertains;" in view of above provisional I am not an "aggrieved person" under section 10A of the THE COST AND WORKS ACCOUNTANTS ACT, 1959 and period of thirty days from the date of declaration of result of election does not Apply to me. Complaint No Com/21-CA(143)/2024 dated 15th July 2024 is not an election case.

4. The respondent CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy, in his response! as forwarded by you to me had confirmed in point no 1. that a similar complaint filed by CMA Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar on 14th September 2020 vide Complaint No Com/21-CA (98)/2020 against CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy. The complaint was disposed of by Board of Discipline and communicated vide letter No G/BOD/Order-Com(98)/1-11-2022 dated 26th November 20221 copy is enclosed in Annexture "A"

5. The respondent CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy, in his response, as forwarded by you to me had unnecessarily accused me in point no 6, for which I vehemently condemn the content and language used by CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy, Neither I contested elections against him nor I am Practicing Chartered Accountant like him to compete with him. I have no animosity towards anyone. This complaint has been made to provide genuine evidence with reference to Violation of ethics and code of conduct and without any animosity.

6. The respondent CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy, in his response, as forwarded by you to me had confirmed in Annexture "C" point no 5. That I have withdrawn Writ Appeal No: 87 of 2023 in Hon'ble High Court of Telangana. It is correct, however Page 2 and point no 3. "After hearing the matter at some length, learned counsel for the appellant seeks Leave to withdraw the writ appeal," and the reason for withdrawal is not that respondent is innocent but Technical. The Returning Officer/ Secretary regarding Manifesto filed with the office of Returning officer, The information provided to the Board of Discipline as mentioned in "Annexture A" point no 1 5 that CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N

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Murthy, has not included institute emblem/logo in the Manifesto Filed by him with the office of Returning Officer. Whereas CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy included Our Institute Emblem/Logo in the Manifesto circulated by CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy to his voters (Members). This amounts to fraud.

7. In Annexture "B" Page No. 6, point no. 1, mentioned that "Petitioner herein has not Filed complaint under." (Form No. 1, and he has not furnished information in terms of Rule 7(1) of Rules 2007." (Rule7(1) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007). Hence now Form No 1 is filed vide complaint No Com/21-CA (143)/2024 dated 15th July 2024. "1 am not an aggrieved person as described above point no 3".

8. In Annexture "A" Point no 9 to 12 and specifically point 12 the Disciplinary Director mentioned that "There are documents on record submitted by the complainant (CMA Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar) as well as by another member, namely Ramachandra Rao Kongara which points out to the fact that the respondent has used Emblem/Logo in the manifesto issued by him during the Elections to the Council and Regional Councils -2019". It may also be cognized here the fact of Form I filed by me also, along with all the clear evidences.

9. However as per point no. 13 "Board did not agree with the Prima facie opinion formed by Director Discipline and directed to further investigate the matter in terms of Rule 9(2)(c) of the said Rules. In this regard Director Discipline was directed to obtain a copy of the manifesto submitted by the respondent to the office of the Returning Officer (i.e. Secretary of the Institute) and place the same before the Board at its next meeting.

10. Point no 15 "The Secretary vide his letter ref No. G/128/09/2021 dated 9th September 2021 (received by Disciplinary Directorate on 1 8th September 2021) provided his reply to the above mentioned letter dated 6th September 2021 of Director (Discipline)"
"Dear Sir, in reference to your letter Reg No G/DD/Com-CA (98)/01/09/201 dated 6th September 2021 , Please find below reply to the information sought by you regarding Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy:

(i) The Fact of Practicing Chartered Accountant has been duly disclosed by Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy in "Particulars of Occupation" required to be submitted by contesting candidate as per item number (i) of Schedule 5 of the Cost and Works Accountants (Election to the Council) Rules 2007.

(ii) The Manifesto issued by Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy (M/13338) during the elections to the Council and Regional Council -2019 did not contain the Emblem of the Institute.

The Manifesto issued by Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy enclosed herewith.
Yours faithfully
Secretary"

According to point no 15, it is clear that Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy has submitted Manifesto without Emblem to the office of the Returning Officer and as per point no 12 Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy circulating Manifesto with Emblem to members (I too enclosed copy received by me as a voter/member Eligible to vote) soliciting votes. Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy also submitted to the office of Returning Officer his "Particulars of Occupation" as Practicing Chartered Accountant, whereas the Manifesto circulated to

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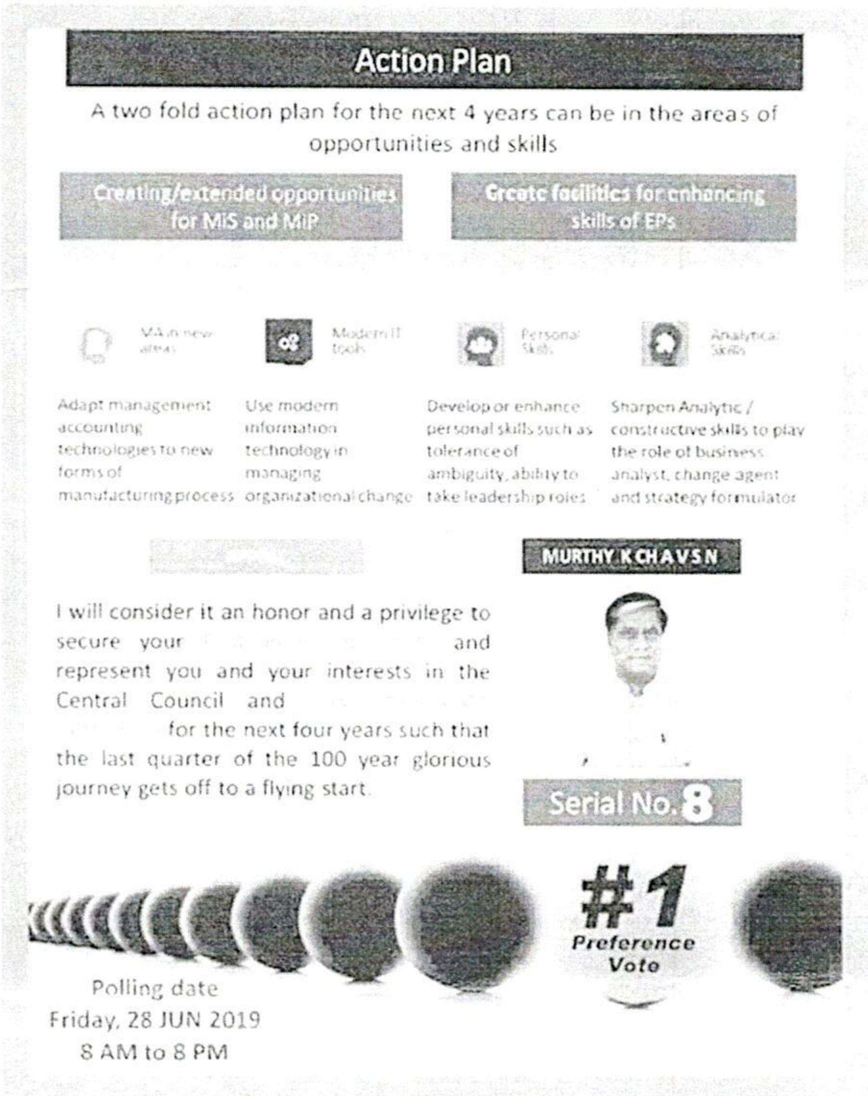
members (Voter) of our Institute didn't mention that he is a Practicing Chartered Accountant. By using two different Manifestos (Without and With Emblem) he not only cheated the Institute, but he also cheated the members (Voters) to get elected as Central Council Member. Also violated the Election Code of Conduct by using Institute Emblem in Manifesto, which is the resource of our Institute, he used for his personal gain. The screenshot of the relevant pages of manifesto forwarded to members is herewith attached for your ready reference.



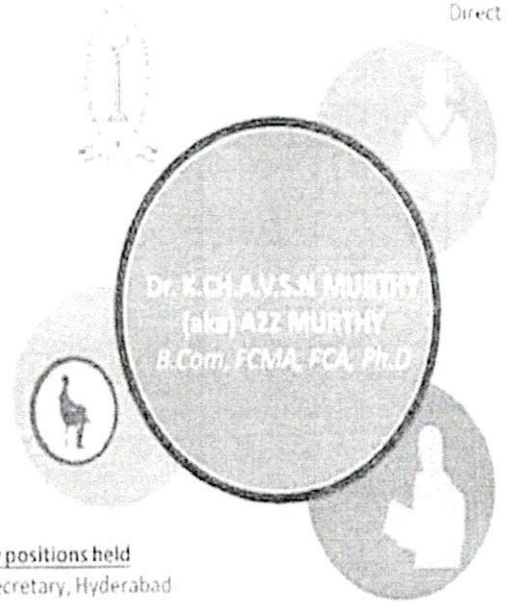
My brief bio-data

Association with the Institute for more than 3 decades

- Faculty at the Hyderabad Chapter for 10 years
- Secretary and Chairman, Hyderabad Chapter (1994 – 1998)
  - ✓ Students strength touched 1,000 which was the highest at that time for any chapter in the country (1996-1998)
  - ✓ Construction of new building at Sanathnagar
  - ✓ Built a strong relationship with Osmania University and helped cross-collaboration for over two decades
- Member and Chairman, SIRC (1998 – 2004)
  - ✓ Chairman, National Cost Convention (2002-03) - Governor of Tamilnadu was the Chief Guest
- Active contributions in Cost Conventions (National & SIRC) held at Hyderabad

Academic contributions

- Published books on GST
- Several articles and television interviews on Direct and Indirect Taxes



Other honorary positions held

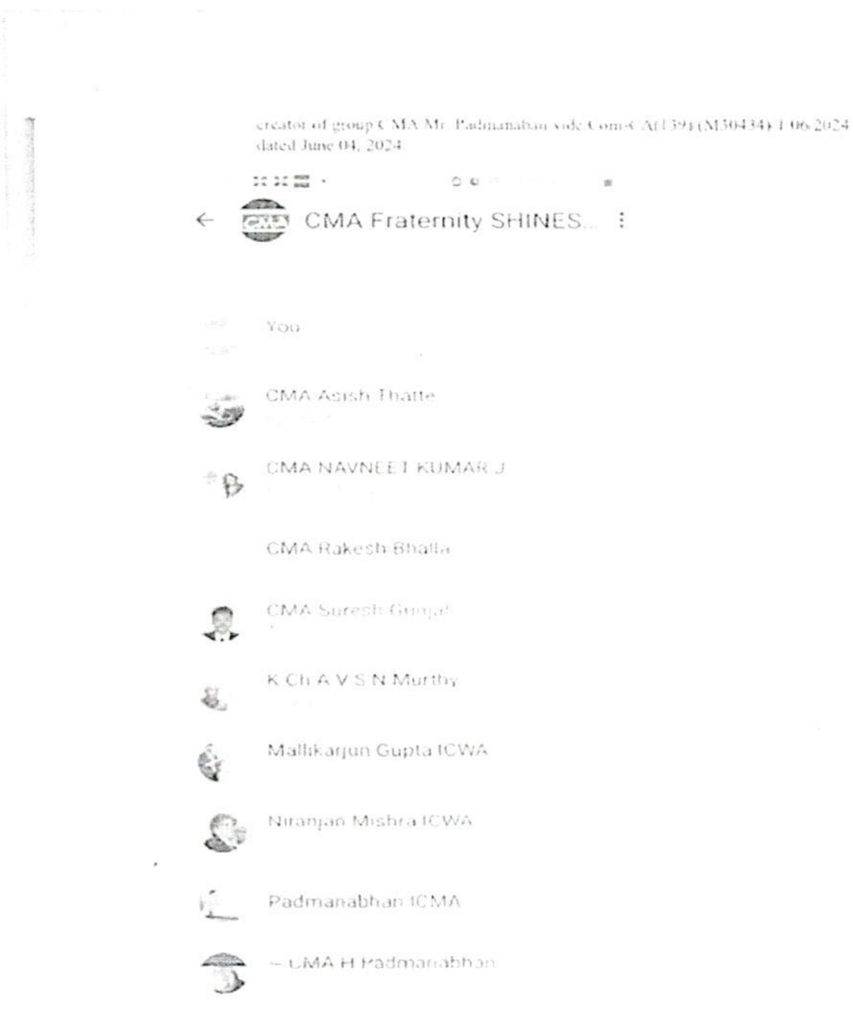
- Presently, Secretary, Hyderabad Chapter of Indian Accounting Association (IAA)
- Member, Faculty of Commerce, Osmania University (2011-2017)
- Associated with National and International Voluntary Organizations like Bharat Vikas Parishad and Lions Club

Professional experience

More than 35 years of expertise in:

- Income Tax and Indirect Tax
- Internal Audit
- Stock Audit
- Company Law matters
- Project Consultancy

11. Further, it is not out of place to mention that Dr. K. Ch- A.V.S.N Murthy had also used the logo of the Institute, as a Profile photo of his personal WhatsApp' which is unethical and amounts a misconduct, which is punishable. Two screenshots of the WhatsApp page image are herewith attached for your ready reference.



Board of Discipline

12. The 'Cherry on the ice-cream' is the astounding fact, that he is the only CCM whose personal photo appears with the Institute Emblem, in website of the Institute also, in the list of the Council members. The screenshot of the image is herewith attached for your ready reference.

In the light of the information / explanations / evidence furnished above, it is hereby submitted that there is no truth or substance in the reply tendered by the respondent. it is proved beyond any doubt that the respondent is a habitual violator of the ethical requirements. It is prayed that Suitable disciplinary action has to be initiated by the Directorate, in the best interest of the Institute and the members. I shall reserve my right, without prejudice, to submit any further response, if any additional information is submitted by the respondent.

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
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CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi
8-2-277/A/5/203, Apu rupa Apartment,
Road No 2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabdad - 500034

Unquote

9. **Comments and Findings of Disciplinary Directorate**

a) The present complaint primarily alleges that the Respondent used the Institute's Logo/Emblem in his election manifesto during the Institute elections, which, according to the Complainant, is impermissible under Clause 7(i) of the Election Code of Conduct.

b) It is further alleged that, as per the prescribed procedure, a certified copy of the manifesto is required to be submitted to the Returning Officer (RO). The Complainant has contended that if the manifesto submitted to the RO contained the Logo/Emblem and was nevertheless accepted, it would amount to conspiracy; alternatively, if the manifesto submitted to the RO did not contain the Logo/Emblem while the circulated version did, it would amount to fraud upon the Institute and its members.

c) In his written statement, the Respondent has submitted that an earlier complaint on substantially similar facts and allegations was filed by Shri Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar and was registered as Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020. The said complaint was duly examined and adjudicated by the Hon'ble Board of Discipline, which, vide Order dated 26.11.2022, held that the Respondent was not guilty of professional or other misconduct and accordingly dismissed the complaint.

d) The Respondent has further submitted that the Complainant had also pursued remedies before judicial fora, including filing Writ Petition No. 2652 of 2021 before the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana, which was dismissed on the ground of availability of alternate remedy. The said order was challenged by way of Writ Appeal No. 87 of 2023 before the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana, which was subsequently withdrawn on 10.02.2023. On this basis, the Respondent has contended that the present complaint lacks merit and is an attempt to re-agitate settled issues.

e) In his rejoinder, the Complainant has submitted that withdrawal of the Writ Appeal was on technical grounds and does not absolve the Respondent. He has further contended that in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020, the Prima Facie Opinion (PFO) of the Director

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(Discipline) was adverse to the Respondent, though not accepted by the Board of Discipline. The Complainant alleges that while the Secretary of the Institute informed that the manifesto submitted to the Returning Officer did not contain the Emblem, the Respondent allegedly circulated a version containing the Emblem to members, thereby using two different manifestos, which, according to him, amounts to fraud and violation of the Election Code of Conduct.

f) The records of Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020 have been examined. It is observed that the allegations therein were substantially similar to those raised in the present complaint. The matter was adjudicated by the Hon'ble Board of Discipline, which, after due consideration of the material on record, including the clarification provided by the Secretary of the Institute, concluded that the Respondent had not committed professional or other misconduct and dismissed the complaint vide Order dated 26.11.2022. The Board had also observed that certain allegations made against the office of the Returning Officer were unwarranted.

g) In view of the above, it is evident that the issues raised in the present complaint are not res integra and have already been examined and adjudicated upon by the Board of Discipline. The contention of the Complainant that the earlier Prima Facie Opinion was adverse to the Respondent does not advance his case, as the final adjudicatory authority, namely the Board of Discipline, rendered a reasoned order exonerating the Respondent. It is a settled principle of law that once a matter has been finally decided by a competent authority, it ought not to be reopened in the absence of new and substantive material. The doctrine of res judicata and the principle of finality of proceedings squarely apply.

h) Accordingly, in light of the Order dated 26th November, 2022 passed by the Board of Discipline in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020, and applying the principle of res judicata, the present complaint, being devoid of any new or substantive material and raising issues already adjudicated, is placed before the Board for consideration and appropriate decision in accordance with law.

10. <u>Proceeding before of Board of Discipline</u>

a) The compliant along with Comments and Findings of Disciplinary Directorate of placed

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before 59th Meeting of Board of Discipline held on 31st March, 2026. Upon consideration of the matter, the Board observed that the allegations raised in the present complaint are substantially similar to those already adjudicated in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020. The Board further noted that no fresh, cogent, or materially distinguishable evidence has been placed on record which was not available or considered during the earlier proceedings. However, in the interest of natural justice, the Board has decided to provide an opportunity to the complainant to demonstrate, based on the material on record, as to how the allegations in the present complaint differ from those raised in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020.

b) In this regard, a Notice under Rule 9 of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007, vide communication **No.** G/DD/Com-CA(143)/C-03/04 dated 20th April, 2026, was issued to the Complainant calling upon him to demonstrate, on the basis of the material available on record, as to how the allegations raised in the present complaint are distinct from those made in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020, and to submit his response within 21 days from the date of service of the said Notice. However, no response was received from the Complainant within the stipulated period. Thereafter, a reminder-cum-final Notice vide communication No. G/DD/Com-CA(143)/C-04/05 dated 20th May, 2026 was issued to the Complainant, granting a final opportunity to furnish his response to the aforesaid Notice within 7 days from the date of service thereof. Despite the said opportunity, no response has been received from the Complainant.

c) In response to the aforesaid Notice, the Complainant, vide communication dated 29th May, 2026**,** submitted his reply, wherein he substantially reiterated the submissions already made by him earlier. For the sake of convenience, the relevant extracts of his reply are reproduced hereunder:

Quote

I am submitting following points with reference to references mentioned above.

1. At the outset, I strongly object for the time taken from your end, when the complaint is filed on 15th July 2024, your first response was on 15th October 2025, you have taken more than One year and 3 months.

   Later my rejoinder was on 29th October 2025, and your first response was on 20th April 2026 again over 4 months and 20 days and second response is on 21st May 2026.

   How do you justify your timelines? Please furnish the timeframe enshrined in the extent rules and regulations in this context; and also give the reasons and justification for the time taken by you. Taking cognizance of the fact that the term of the elected member is only 4 years, taking more than 2 years, just to put the proceedings in place is certainly not a "just practice" and it is the well-established fact that "Justice delayed is justice denied".

2. It is noted from your letter, referred to above, you have not responded to Item no 2,3,5,10 and 12 in my rejoinder. This sounds something upsetting.

3. It is noted from your letter that you asked additional evidence compared to **Complaint No Com/21-CA(98)/2020.** In fact, in Form I and Rejoinder dated 29th October 2025 enclosed screenshot **CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy WhatsApp** profile with our institute emblem and his screenshot showing with institute emblem in the very official website of the Institute in Council Members from Southern Region page. It shows he is habitual offender in using our Institute emblem for his personal use. Why this fact was not considered in the adjudication process?

4. Item no 10 from my rejoinder is reproduced here, "In **Annexture "A"** Point no 9 to 12 and specifically point 12 the Disciplinary Director mentioned that **"There are documents on record submitted by the complainant (CMA Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar) as well as by another member, namely Ramachandra Rao Kongara which points out to the fact that the respondent has used Emblem/Logo in the manifesto issued by him during the Elections to the Council and Regional Councils -2019". It may also be cognized here the fact of Form I filed by me also, along with all the clear evidences."** This makes it clear that **CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy used** emblem in Manifesto circulated to members soliciting vote. Whether this fact was considered in the adjudication process which is a sufficient evidence, and if not, why?

   Further, from the adjudication proceedings of the above said Complaint No Com/21-CA(98)/2020, the principle of "in the interest of natural justice" and giving the chance of being heard was not seen to be practised. Furthermore, it is made clear therein in the verdict, that only the documents of the returning officer were relied

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upon, and no attempt was made to get the original documents of the complaints, in the same manner.

It is also clear that no attempt was made to consider the "well-made findings" of Director Discipline, which he made after due procedural enquiry. He had clearly mentioned that the documents were on record, as submitted by the complainant (CMA Neelam Chiranjeevi Sridhar) as well as by another member, namely Ramachandra Rao Kongara which points out to the fact that the respondent has used Emblem/Logo in the manifesto issued by him during the Elections to the Council and Regional Councils -2019", Thus, either conveniently or deliberately, the "vital evidence" that "proves the allegation inflexibly" was kept aside.

In light of the above facts, this unilateral disposal of the said compliant with bias amounts to be "null and void". And consequently, no such comparison and reasoning based on, that void adjudication, in the current proceedings, whatsoever, stands for any prudence.

5. Item no 12 from my rejoinder is reproduced here "**Point no 15 "The Secretary vide his letter ref No. G/128/09/2021 dated 9th September 2021 (received by Disciplinary Directorate on 18th September 2021) provided his reply to the above mentioned letter dated 6th September 2021 of Director (Discipline)" "Dear Sir, in reference to your letter Reg No G/DD/Com-CA (98)/01/09/201 dated 6th September 2021, Please find below reply to the information sought by you regarding Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy:**

   i) The Fact of Practicing Chartered Accountant has been duly disclosed by Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy in "Particulars of Occupation" required to be submitted by contesting candidate as per item number (i) of Schedule 5 of the Cost and Works Accountants (Election to the Council) Rules 2007.

   ii) The Manifesto issued by Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy (M/13338) during the elections to the Council and Regional Council -2019 did not contain the Emblem of the Institute." This makes it clear that CMA **Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy** has not submitted the same Manifesto he circulated to members soliciting vote.

6. I am reproducing last paragraph from my rejoinder "According to point no 15, it is clear that Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy has **submitted Manifesto without Emblem to the office of the Returning Officer** and as per point no 12 Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy **circulating Manifesto with Emblem to members** (I too enclosed copy received by me as a voter/member eligible to vote) soliciting votes. Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy also submitted to the office of Returning Officer his **"Particulars of Occupation"** as **Practicing Chartered Accountant**, whereas the Manifesto circulated to members (Voter) of our Institute didn't mention that he is a **Practicing**

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Chartered Accountant. By using two different Manifestos **(Without and With Emblem)** he not only **cheated the Institute**, but he also **cheated the members (Voters)** to get elected as Central Council Member. Also violated the Election Code of Conduct by using Institute Emblem in Manifesto, which is the resource of our Institute, he used for his personal gain. The screenshot of the relevant pages of manifesto forwarded to members is herewith attached for your ready reference" Whether this fact was considered in the adjudication process which is a sufficient evidence, and if not, why?

7. My additional evidence compared to **Complaint No Com/21-CA(98)/2020** is the confirmation from the secretary of the Institute that **Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy** has submitted a different manifesto to the Returning Officer, and which amounts to fraud committed on members as well as the Institute. Using our Institute Emblem in Manifesto is violation of Election Code of Conduct 7(i) of Code and submitting a different Manifesto to Returning officer is not only violation of Election code but Fraud committed on our members and Institute as well. Whether this fact was considered in the adjudication process which is a sufficient evidence, and if not, why?

8. It is apparently clear from the information, explanations and evidences, at points 4-7 above, that sufficient evidence and explanations were already made available, which either were omitted, either inadvertently or otherwise, or not properly analysed. And now asking for additional information is somewhat uncalled for. What more "additional" information is being sought is not clear, is totally fallacious and unfounded.

9. Now depending on all additional screenshots and Secretary statement that Manifesto submitted by **Dr. K. Ch. A.V.S.N Murthy** is different from that circulated to Members hence the earlier order cannot be used for my complaint.

It is prayed that suitable disciplinary action to be initiated by the Directorate, at the earliest. in the best interest of the Institute and the members.

I shall reserve my right, without prejudice, to submit any further response, if any additional information is submitted by the respondent.

CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi
8-2-277/A/5/203, Apurupa Apartment,
Road No 2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabdad – 500034

Unquote

d) The submissions of the Complainant have been duly taken on record and carefully considered. Insofar as the grievance raised in paragraph 2 of the Complainant's reply is concerned, wherein it has been alleged that no response was furnished to the issues raised in paragraphs 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12 of his rejoinder, it is observed that the said grievance is misconceived.

e) At the outset, it is pertinent to point out that neither The Cost Accountant Act, 1959 nor the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007 cast any obligation upon the Director (Discipline) or the Board of Discipline, being a quasi-judicial authority, to furnish point-wise replies to every contention advanced by a complainant during the course of proceedings. The statutory requirement is that all pleadings, documents and material placed on record by the parties are duly considered before arriving at a reasoned decision. Nevertheless, in the interest of completeness and to address the concerns expressed by the Complainant, the Board considers it appropriate to record the following observations:

(i) The Complainant, in paragraph 2 of his rejoinder, has alleged an inordinate delay in forwarding the Respondent's written statement. The said contention is factually untenable. The record establishes that the Respondent's written statement dated 23rd September, 2025, received by the Directorate on 26th September, 2025, was forwarded to the Complainant vide communication dated 9th October, 2025, affording him an opportunity to file his rejoinder in accordance with the prescribed procedure. Accordingly, the allegation of an unexplained delay of more than one year is contrary to the record.

(ii) In paragraph 3 of his rejoinder, the Complainant has contended that the present complaint does not relate to the election process and, therefore, the limitation prescribed for election-related complaints is inapplicable. The said contention is misconceived and has no bearing on the issues arising for determination in the present proceedings. The complaint has been duly registered and is being examined strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Cost Accountants Act, 1959 and the Rules framed thereunder.

(iii) The submissions contained in paragraph 5 of the rejoinder merely reiterate facts already forming part of the record and do not disclose any new or material evidence warranting further consideration.

(iv) As regards the submissions contained in paragraph 10 of the rejoinder that the

Respondent circulated two different versions of the election manifesto, no cogent or independent evidence has been produced in support thereof. Mere assertions, unsupported by credible evidence, cannot constitute proof of professional misconduct. Moreover, the said issue has already been examined in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020, wherein it was confirmed by the Secretary of the Institute that the manifesto submitted by the Respondent during the Elections to the Council and Regional Councils, 2019 did not contain the Institute's Emblem. In the absence of any fresh and reliable evidence, there is no justification to revisit the findings recorded in the earlier proceedings.

(v) The submissions contained in paragraph 12 of the rejoinder regarding the use of the Institute's logo/trademark in his photo constitutes a distinct issue which does not form part of the original complaint. In any event, the Board of Discipline in its Order dated 31st March, 2026 passed, in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(139)/2024, has observed that the Institute's logo was registered as a trademark only with effect from 21st December, 2025. Further, the Council Guidelines for Advertisement, 2025 for Members in Practice, regulating the use of the Institute's name, emblem and logo, came into force on 10th April, 2026. Accordingly, in the absence of any applicable statutory or regulatory prohibition governing the alleged conduct at the relevant time, no adverse inference can be drawn against the Respondent on this ground.

(vi) In view of the above observation, the Board is satisfied that the Complainant's reply substantially reiterates the allegations and submissions considered in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020 and fails to disclose any fresh, cogent or materially distinguishable evidence warranting reconsideration of the issues already adjudicated therein.

11. <u>Findings and Order of Board of Discipline</u>

a) The following issues arise for determination:

i. Whether the allegations raised in the present complaint are substantially similar to those adjudicated in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020;

ii. Whether the present complaint discloses any new or substantive material warranting re-examination of the matter;

iii. Whether the Respondent is guilty of professional or other misconduct under the provisions of the Cost Accountants Act, 1959.

b) Upon careful examination of the complaint, the written statement of defence, the rejoinder, the findings of the Director (Discipline), and the material available on record, the Board records its findings as under:

S. No.	Issue for Consideration	Findings of the Board
1	Whether the allegations raised in the present complaint are substantially similar to those adjudicated in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020	Upon perusal of the records of Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020, it is observed that the allegations relating to the use of the Institute's Logo/Emblem in the election manifesto and related circulation issues were already examined by the Board of Discipline. The said complaint was dismissed vide Order dated 26th November, 2022. The present allegations are found to be substantially identical to those adjudicated earlier.
2	Whether the present complaint discloses any new or substantive material warranting re-examination of the matter	The Complainant has not placed on record any fresh, cogent, or materially distinguishable evidence which was not available or considered during the earlier proceedings. The earlier Order of the Board has attained finality. In absence of new substantive material, reopening of the matter is not warranted.
3	Whether the Respondent is guilty of professional or other misconduct under the	In view of the earlier adjudication by the Board and absence of any new material evidence, no case of professional or other misconduct is made

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S. No.	Issue for Consideration	Findings of the Board
	provisions of the Cost Accountants Act, 1959.	out against the Respondent. Accordingly, the Respondent is held Not Guilty under the Cost Accountants Act, 1959. The attempt to reopen concluded proceedings without any fresh material cannot be sustained in law

c) The Board holds that the issues raised in the present complaint are substantially similar to those adjudicated in Complaint No. Com/21-CA(98)/2020, which was dismissed by this Board vide Order dated 26.11.2022.

d) Without prejudice the above, the Board notes with grave concern that the complainant has raised suspicion and cast allegation against the office of the Returning officer which is unwarranted and uncalled for.

e) Accordingly, in exercise of powers conferred under Rule 9(3)(a) of the Cost and Works Accountants (Procedure of Investigations of Professional and Other Misconduct and Conduct of Cases) Rules, 2007, the Board holds that the Respondent is Not Guilty of professional or other misconduct under the Cost Accountants Act, 1959.The Complainant and the Respondent be informed accordingly.

f) The matter stands disposed of accordingly.

A.P. Thatte

CMA (Dr.) Ashish Thatte,

(Member)

Shri P.K. Pujari, IAS (Retd)

(Presiding Officer)

Place: New Delhi

Date: 3rd July, 2026

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Distribution under Rule 15(3) of the Rule

1) Director(Discipline), Institute of Cost Accountant of India

2) Complainant, CMA Raghavender Reddy Kandadi (M/30434)

3) Respondent, CMA K. Ch. A.V.S.N. Murthy (M/13338)

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