



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

[PR/G/506/2022/DD/497/2022/BOD/763/2024]

ORDER UNDER SECTION 21A (3) OF THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS ACT, 1949 READ WITH RULE 15 (1) OF THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (PROCEDURE OF INVESTIGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AND CONDUCT OF CASES) RULES, 2007

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ms. Padmini Solanki

Deputy Director of Income Tax (Inv.) Unit-1(1)

Office of the Principal Director of Income Tax (Inv.)

Room No. 142, 1st Floor, Aayakar Bhawan, Ashram Road,

Ahmedabad.....Complainant

Versus

CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615)

704, Samedh Complex, Near Associated Petrol Pump, CG Road

Ahmedabad.....Respondent

[PR/G/506/2022/DD/497/2022/BOD/763/2024]

MEMBERS PRESENT (THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE):

CA. Rajendra Kumar P, Presiding Officer

Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty (IAAS, ret'd.), Government Nominee

CA. Priti Savla, Member

Date of hearing and passing of Order: 30th December 2025

1. The Board of Discipline vide its findings dated 08th December 2025 was of the view that CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615) is **GUILTY** of Other Misconduct falling within the meaning of Item (2) of Part-IV of the First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.
2. An action under Section 21A (3) of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 was contemplated against CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615) and communication dated 19th December 2025 was addressed to him thereby granting him an opportunity of being heard on 30th December 2025 which was exercised by him by being present through video conferencing. He confirmed receipt of the findings of the Board and requested the Board to take a sympathetic view on the case and promised not to repeat it.
3. Thus, upon consideration of the facts of the case where neither any re-assessment was done by the Income Tax Department, nor any action was initiated against the Political Parties involved in the instant matter, along with the consequent misconduct of CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615) and keeping in view his representation before it, the Board decided to **REPRIMAND** CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615).

Sd/-

CA. Rajendra Kumar P

(Presiding Officer)

सत्यापित हान के लिए प्रमाणित / Certified to be True Copy

Sd/-

Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty (IAAS, ret'd.)
(Government Nominee)

विश्वनाथ तिवारी / Bishwa Nath Tiwari
कार्यकारी अधिकारी / Executive Officer
अनुशासनात्मक निदेशालय / Disciplinary Directorate
भारतीय सनदी लेखाकार संस्थान
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
आई.सी.ए.आई. भवन, सी-1, सेक्टर-1, नोएडा-201301 (उ.प्र.)
ICAI Bhawan, C-1, Sector-1, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Sd/-

CA. Priti Savla
(Member)

Ms. Padmini Solanki, DDIT (Inv.) Unit-1(1) -Vs- CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615)

BOARD OF DISCIPLINE

(Constituted under Section 21A of the Chartered Accountants Act 1949)

**FINDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINE UNDER RULE 14 (9) OF THE
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (PROCEDURE OF INVESTIGATIONS OF
PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AND CONDUCT OF CASES)
RULES, 2007**

FILE No: PR/G/506/2022/DD/497/2022/BOD/763/2024

CORAM: (PRESENT IN PERSON):

CA. Rajendra Kumar P, Presiding Officer
Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty, Government Nominee
CA. Priti Savla, Member

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ms. Padmini Solanki

Deputy Director of Income Tax (Inv.)

Unit-1(1), Ahmedabad, Office of the Principal Director of Income Tax (Inv.)

Room No.142, 1st Floor, Aayakar Bhawan, Ashram Road,

Ahmedabad.....**Complainant**

Versus

CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah (M. No. 158615)

704, Samedh Complex, Near Associated Petrol Pump, CG Road

Ahmedabad.....**Respondent**

Date of Final Hearing	:	26 th September 2025
Place of Final Hearing	:	ICAI Bhawan, Ahmedabad
Date of Pronouncement of Judgment	:	04 th November 2025

PARTIES PRESENT (IN PERSON):

Representative of Complainant's Department: Shri Prem Prakash Prasad and Shri Girraj Meena, Inspectors

Respondent	:	CA. Fenil Rajeshbhai Shah
Counsel for Respondent	:	CA. Deepak Shah

FINDINGS:

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE:

1. It is the case of the Complainant that a search and seizure operation under the Income tax Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") was conducted by the Complainant Department in the case of 03 Political Parties and 02 Charitable institutions based out of Ahmedabad, namely, Manvadhikar National Party, (MNP), Kisan Adhikar Party (KAP), All

India Social Education Charitable Trust (AISECT) controlled by Shri Tribhawan Ramkalp Ojha and Kisan Party of India (KPI), and Aadhar Foundation (AF) controlled by Shri Saumil Bhadaria, that were involved in widespread and multiple tax evasion practices.

2. Further, the Complainant stated that during the search of their department carried out on 02nd February 2021, 28 Chartered Accountants including Respondent, were found to have solicited clients for bogus donations scam who have categorically, unambiguously and repeatedly admitted their role in the aforementioned bogus donation scam in their statements recorded on oath u/s 132(4) and 131(1A) of the Act.
3. Furthermore, the Respondent colluded with the key persons from the Political party in this elaborate scam to facilitate widespread tax evasion and electoral funding fraud. The Respondent solicited clients/donors looking to reduce their taxable income by claiming fraudulent deductions as per the Income Tax Act. After soliciting the clients these commission agents (professionals including Respondent) provided bank account details of the political party to the client, who in turn transferred the donation amount to the said bank account and provided the details such as Name of donor, PAN, address, Bank A/c details, RTGS/NEFT/UTR no. etc. on WhatsApp to the key persons of political party, who in turns generated donation receipt in the name of the client. Thereafter, the said amount was then finally returned to the original donor's i.e., clients in the form of cash after deduction of the commission of the mediators, i.e., (Respondent), in the extant matter.

CHARGE ALLEGED:

4. The Respondent was involved in a political party donation scam to facilitate tax evasion by soliciting clients for bogus donations in lieu of commission income.

BRIEF OF PROCEEDINGS HELD:

5. The details of the hearings fixed and held in the said matter are given below:

S. No.	Date of hearings	Status of hearings
1.	10 th July 2025	Part Heard and Adjourned.
2.	26 th September 2025	Matter Heard and Concluded. Judgment Reserved.
3.	4 th November 2025	Judgment Pronounced.

BRIEF SUBMISSIONS OF THE PARTIES:

RESPONDENT:

6. The Respondent vide letter dated 6th January 2025, while reiterating his previous statement, submitted that the Prima Facie Opinion (hereinafter 'PFO') is silent about the evidentiary value of the Respondent's contention that the Respondent's statement on Oath is self-incriminatory and the same is not admissible in evidence.
7. The Respondent submitted that as per statement of Mr. Sunny Soni as reproduced in para 10.5 of the PFO, what he has stated is that only the Respondent's clients who have been referred to him for donation, but the Respondent's involvement is not coming. The Respondent has not involved himself, but only on the insistence of the client, he used to refer them to Mr. Sunny Soni for a donation. Similarly, even as per statement of Mr. Bhavin Soni as reproduced in para 10.5 of the PFO, it only shows various WhatsApp group

that include the Respondent's name but does not mention that the Respondent was involved in such work.

8. The Respondent further submitted that he was not involved in any activity which has brought disrepute to the profession or the Institute as such, but he only served the clients as a true professional by rejecting their request to arrange for bogus donation etc. Since there is no direct evidence of him indulging in such activity but only based on his statement, such an observation is arrived at, the same should be considered in proper perspective to hold him not guilty.

COMPLAINANT/COMPLAINANT DEPARTMENT:

9. The Complainant, vide letter dated 2nd July 2025, while reiterating the submissions earlier placed before the Director (Discipline), stated that the statement on oath under Section 132(4)/131(1A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, was recorded during the period from May to June 2021. The statement was duly read over to the Respondent, who, being a qualified professional well-versed in legal matters, personally certified under his signature that no threat, undue pressure, or coercion was exerted upon him during his deposition. The Department further submitted that apart from the statement on oath, there are numerous other incriminating evidence gathered during the search operation, as well as post-search enquiries, which clearly indicate the involvement of such professionals in the large-scale bogus donation scam.
10. The Respondent's claim of having been subjected to undue influence or coercion during the post-search inquiry, which was raised only after a considerable lapse of time and notably after the initiation of disciplinary proceedings by the Disciplinary Directorate, is clearly baseless, factually incorrect and therefore untenable in law. Such an act of the Respondent appears as an effort to derail the inquiry initiated by the Board of Discipline.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE BOARD:

11. The Board observed that when the Complainant department initiated the search and seizure operation in the case of 03 Political Parties and 02 Charitable institutions based out of Ahmedabad, namely, Manvadhikar National Party, (MNP), Kisan Adhikar Party (KAP), All India Social Education Charitable Trust (AISECT) controlled by Shri Tribhawan Ramkalp Ojha and Kisan Party of India (KPI), and Aadhar Foundation (AF) controlled by Shri Saumil Bhadaria; it was emerged that the Respondent had facilitated tax evasion by soliciting clients to make bogus donations in exchange for commission payments.
12. The Board observed that the Complainant Department brought on record the Statement on Oath of the Respondent dated 23rd April 2021, recorded before them under 131 (1A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The relevant portion of the Statement on Oath of the Respondent are reproduced below:

"Q.4 During the search and seizure operation in the case of various political parties and charitable organization, in the premises of Sunny Dineshbhai Soni, A/402, Devdutt Residency, Chenpur Road, New Ranip, Ahmedabad, statement of Shri Sunny Soni was recorded u/s 132(4) of the IT Act. Similarly, statements of Shri Bhavin Dineshkumar Soni, and Shri Umang Dineshkumar Soni, were recorded u/s 131(1A) of the IT Act, 1961. I am showing you the relevant portions of all the statements which pertain to you. Please offer your comments on the same.

Ans: - Sir, I have gone through the statement of Sunny Dineshbhai Soni, Umang Dineshkumar Soni and Bhavin Dineshkumar Soni. It was admitted in the statements that a whatsapp group named "KPI FS" comprising of myself and these three individuals was

formed. It is also deposed by the aforementioned persons in their statement recorded on oath that details like, PAN card, Aadhar Card and screenshot of bank details from different clients was shared by me in the whatsapp group. I confirm the aforementioned facts and admit that I used to forward details such as PAN card, Aadhar Card and screenshot of bank details from different clients contacted by me, to the group named "KPI FS". Thereafter, the client used to donate the amount directly into the bank accounts of political party/charitable organization, and after taking confirmation from the party, Sunny Soni used to ask me to collect cash. As per convenience, I would collect the cash to be returned to the client either myself or through any person from my office, mostly from Sunny Soni's office, A-14/2/1, Kalapurnam, 5th Floor, Near Municipal Market, C. G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad. **Thereafter, I would return the cash to the client after deducting my commission @ 0.5% of the total amount donated by the client to the account of the political party/ charitable organization. The said cash would be handed over to the donors personally by me or by my employee.** Further, I confirm that the whatsapp chats shown to me which are part of the above statements are from KPI FS group only. This is the same whatsapp group utilized by me to contact the other members to forward the details received from various clients, obtain information on collection of cash amounts pertaining to such donations and other communication pertaining to the donations from various clients organized by me.

Sir, I want to add that as stated by Sunny Soni in his statement, I admit that I am also involved in providing bogus bills as per the requirements of various clients, wherein only a bill was provided, and no actual movement of goods took place. The client used to show such expenditure in their books to reduce net profit and thereby their tax liability. I have been providing such bogus bills to clients for the last 2 years. **I earned 0.5-1% of the amount of bill, depending on the client, as commission income.** I used to provide the details received from the clients to Sunny Soni over whatsapp chat who used to arrange Bills of the required amounts. I used to provide such bills back to clients and used to collect commission income in cash from Sunny Soni.

Thus, upon examination of the above, the Board noted that the Respondent has unequivocally admitted his involvement in the said political donation scam.

13. The Board observed that even if the Respondent's submission that his statement on Oath is molded or incorrectly recorded, were to be accepted at face value, then it is upon him to promptly retract within a reasonable time or approach any appropriate authority within a reasonable time to safeguard his interests. However, in the present case, the Respondent failed to take any such corrective step and chose to remain silent for a considerable period. This prolonged inaction, in the Board's view, undermines the credibility of his present contention. Thus, according to the Board, the Respondent's assertion that his earlier statement was molded or incorrect is merely an afterthought, advanced with the apparent intent of evading the disciplinary proceedings.
14. The Board noted that, as per the Respondent's affidavit dated 09th September 2025, and the submissions of the representatives of the Complainant Department during the hearing, it is established that the Income Tax department did no reassessment of the Respondent's income. Nevertheless, the Board cannot lose sight of the fact that the Respondent's statement on Oath dated 23rd April 2021 is admissible unless rebutted within a reasonable time. The Board observed that in the present case, the Respondent failed to rebut his statement within a reasonable time and as a matter of fact, the Respondent did not even rebut his statement on Oath and remained silent till the receipt of the complaint in Form-I.
15. The Board cannot negate its findings just upon the fact that the Respondent's case was not reopened by the Income Tax department after the alleged commission income, and keeping in view the observations of the Court concerning statement on Oath recorded under Section 131 (1A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Board found that Complainant

has met the initial burden of proving the Guilt on part of the Respondent. Accordingly, the onus therefore shifted to the Respondent to establish his innocence. However, the Respondent failed to produce any cogent evidence or documentation in support of his defence.

16. Thereupon, on a detailed perusal of the submissions and documents on record, the Board was of the view that the Complainant department had furnished corroborative evidence demonstrating that the Respondent was involved in a political party donation scam to facilitate tax evasion by soliciting clients for bogus donations in lieu of commission income. In view of the same, the Board held the Respondent **Guilty** in respect of the charge alleged.

CONCLUSION:

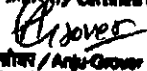
17. Considering the foregoing, in the considered opinion of the Board, the Respondent is held '**Guilty**' of Other Misconduct falling within the meaning of Item (2) of Part IV of the First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

Sd/-
CA. Rajendra Kumar P
Presiding Officer

Sd/-
Dolly Chakrabarty, IAAS (Retd.)
Government Nominee

Sd/-
CA. Priti Savla
Member

Date:08-12-2025

सत्यापित होने के लिये प्रमाणित / Certified to be True Copy

अर्जुन ग्रोवर / Arjun Grover
सहायक सचिव / Assistant Secretary
अनुशासननयक निदेशालय / Disciplinary Directorate
भारतीय स्वतंत्र लेखाकार संस्थान
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