



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

[PR/G/500/2022/DD/492/2022/BOD/797/2025]

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. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164)
16/B Vasant Nagar Society, Gopal Chowk
Bhairavnath Road, Mani Nagar,
Ahmedabad..... **Respondent**

[PR/G/500/2022/DD/492/2022/BOD/797/2025]

MEMBERS PRESENT (THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE):

CA. Rajendra Kumar P, Presiding Officer
Ms. Dolly Chakrabarty (IAAS, retd.), 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. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164) 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. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164) 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.
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. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164) and keeping in view his representation before it, the Board decided to **REPRIMAND** CA. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164).

Sd/-

CA. Rajendra Kumar P
सत्याग्रह नामक द्वारा तियारी/Certified to be True Copy

Sd/- **विज्ञानाथ तियारी/Bishwa Nath Thwari**
कार्यकारी अधिकारी/Executive Officer
मनुषासनात्मक नियोगालय/Disciplinary Directorate
भारतीय समाजी सेवाकार संस्थान
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India
आई.सी.ए.आई. भवन, सी-1, सेक्टर-1, नोएडा-201301 (उ.प.)
ICAI Bhawan, C-1, Sector-1, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

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

Sd/-
CA. Priti Savla
(Member)

Ms. Padmini Solanki, DDIT (Inv.) Unit-1(1) -Vs- CA. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164)

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**

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)
Office of the Principal Director of Income Tax (Inv.)
Room No. 142, 1st Floor
Aayakar Bhawan, Ashram Road
Ahmedabad.....Complainant**

Vs

**CA. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja (M. No. 142164)
16/B Vasant Nagar Society, Gopal Chowk
Bhairavnath Road, Mani Nagar
Ahmedabad.....Respondent**

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

PARTY PRESENT (IN PERSON):

Complainant Department Representative	:	Shri Prem Prakash & Shri Giriraj Meena Inspectors
Respondent	:	CA. Deepak Kishanlal Budharaja
Counsel for Respondent	:	CA. Deepak Shah

FINDINGS:

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE:

1. An Income Tax Search and Seizure operation was conducted on 02nd February 2021 by the Income Tax Department in the cases of three political parties and two charitable institutions based in Ahmedabad, namely Manvadhirak National Party (MNP), Kisan Adhikar Party (KAP), Kisan Party of India, All India Social Education Charitable Trust (AISECT) controlled by Shri Tribhawan Ramkarpal Ojha and Aadhar Foundation controlled

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by Shri Saumil Bhadiadra. The search action was initiated based on credible information indicating that these entities were engaged in extensive tax-evasion practices. During the operation, substantial evidence was unearthed revealing that the entities were involved in a systematic scheme of providing accommodation entries to facilitate illegitimate deductions under Sections 80GGB, 80GGC and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The investigation indicated that the donations received in the bank accounts of these entities were not genuine; instead, the funds were circulated through multiple layers of dummy concerns and ultimately returned to the original donors, either in cash or through banking channels, after deducting a commission. Numerous incriminating documents substantiating these activities were seized, and statements were recorded u/s 132(4) and 131(1A) of Income Tax Act on oath. The key persons of the group categorically admitted that the accounts of these entities were being misused solely for routing such accommodation entries. This discovery established the modus operandi employed by the group in facilitating large-scale tax evasion.

CHARGE ALLEGED:

2. It is alleged 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 which would fall under Other Misconduct as defined in Item (2) of Part IV of First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

BRIEF OF PROCEEDINGS HELD:

3. The details of the hearing fixed and held in the instant matter are given as below:

S. No.	Date of Hearing	Status of hearing
1.	10 th July 2025	Part Heard and Adjourned.
2.	26 th September 2025	Matter Heard and Concluded. Judgement Reserved.
3.	04 th November 2025	Judgement pronounced.

SUBMISSION OF THE RESPONDENT:

4. In his letter dated 28th February 2025, the Respondent reiterated his earlier submissions and clarified that no evidence has been produced to establish his direct involvement in the alleged scam. He stated that his role was limited to referring certain matters to acquaintances who were independently engaged in the relevant activities. He emphasized that neither he facilitated nor participated in any transaction involving the payment of donations or the receipt of commission, which constitutes the core allegation in the complaint. Accordingly, the Respondent contended that he cannot be regarded as having aided or abetted any wrongdoing committed by the concerned political parties or their associated clients.
5. The Respondent also submitted that, among all the individuals he had referred, there is no instance indicating that he advised any person to donate or claim a deduction. He pointed out that the original complaint was filed against 28 members of ICAI based on a common cause of action and the statements recorded before the Income Tax Department. However, the status report subsequently filed contains only 22 names. The Respondent highlighted that the circumstances under which the names of six members were omitted remain unclear. He argued that, on the principle of natural justice particularly the requirement of equal treatment among similarly placed individuals his name also ought to have been excluded from the proceedings.

(Signature)

6. Additionally, the Respondent maintained that, even assuming he referred a client to another person for purposes such as obtaining a loan, work-related assistance, or investment advice, he cannot be held liable for any misconduct committed by that third party. He also underscored that he had not received any fees or consideration for such referrals, a fact that is undisputed. Consequently, the Respondent asserted that the proceedings against him are unwarranted and unsupported by any substantive evidence.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE BOARD:

7. At the outset, the Board noted that the Respondent's primary defence that he merely referred acquaintances and did not personally induce anyone to make donations cannot override the explicit admissions made by him. His own statement reveals that he actively acted as an intermediary between the donors and Shri Ojha, transmitted donor information, communicated bank details for routing transactions, obtained receipts, coordinated the delivery of cash returned to donors, and received commission in respect of these transactions. These acts demonstrate clear and conscious participation in a scheme designed to create accommodation entries for tax deduction purposes.

8. The Board also notes the submissions made by the Complainant's Representative in respect of reassessment proceedings and donor information. While the Complainant could not provide detailed reassessment related evidence for all donors, this procedural gap does not weaken the case against the Respondent, as the finding of misconduct rests primarily on the Respondent's own unequivocal admissions and the absence of any credible retraction. The Board further observes that nothing was placed on record to counter or nullify the statements recorded under oath, nor was any contrary explanation furnished that could diminish their evidentiary strength.

9. The Board also observed that although the Respondent subsequently attempted to distance himself from his earlier admissions by alleging that the statement was recorded under coercion or misrepresentation, no contemporaneous evidence has been produced to support such a claim. No timely retraction was submitted before the Complainant Department, and despite repeated opportunities, the Respondent could not produce any material to show that the contents of his statement were incorrectly recorded. Further, during the hearing, the Complainant's Department confirmed that no documentary evidence was filed by the Respondent to substantiate his allegation of coercion. The judicial position, as relied upon in the Prima Facie Opinion, clearly holds that an admission carries significant evidentiary value unless convincingly retracted at the earliest opportunity. In the present case, no such attempt was made in a manner consistent with the established legal standards.

10. Considering the totality of facts, the documentary material, the sworn admissions of the Respondent, and the principles applicable to admissions and retractions, the Board finds out that the Respondent has engaged in conduct that has the effect of lowering the dignity and reputation of the profession. By associating himself with and participating in a scheme designed to facilitate bogus donations and enabling accommodation entries for tax benefits, the Respondent has acted in a manner detrimental to the integrity expected of members of the Institute. Such conduct undoubtedly brings disrepute to the profession and violates the ethical standards mandated under the Chartered Accountants Act.

11. Thus, after a thorough evaluation of the record, and the submissions made by both sides during the hearing, the Board is of the view that the Respondent's conduct squarely falls within the definition of Other Misconduct under Item (2) of Part IV of the First Schedule

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to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. This conclusion arises primarily from the Respondent's own clear and repeated admissions in the statement recorded on oath on 07th June 2021, under Section 131(1A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, wherein he acknowledged his participation in the arrangement involving bogus donations routed through political parties and charitable trusts. In that statement, the Respondent accepted that he had been in continuous contact with Shri Tribhawan Ojha for a period of 2-3 Years, and that he actively facilitated fake donations by collecting donor details from certain Chartered Accountants known to him, sharing bank account details received from Shri Tribhawan Ojha, coordinating transactions, and ensuring the return of funds to the donors after deduction of commission. He further admitted that he himself received a commission of 0.25% on these transactions. These admissions, made voluntarily at the time when the Income Tax Department confronted him with seized documents and statements of other involved persons, form a substantive and direct acknowledgment of his role.

12. Accordingly, the Board holds the Respondent **Guilty** of Other Misconduct under Item (2) of Part IV of the First Schedule to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

CONCLUSION:

10. Thus, in conclusion, 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

सत्यापित होने के लिए प्रमाणित / Certified to be True Copy

Charan Singh

चरण सिंह / Charan Singh
कार्यकारी अधिकारी / Executive Officer
अप्रूपासनात्मक निवेशालय / Disciplinary Directorate
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ICAI Bhawan, C-1, Sector-1, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Date:08-12-2025