

CIA Challenge Exam

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



The Institute of
Internal Auditors

Mukundan K V, CEO IIA India



The Institute of Internal Auditors

The internal audit profession's most widely recognized advocate, educator, and provider of standards, guidance, and certifications



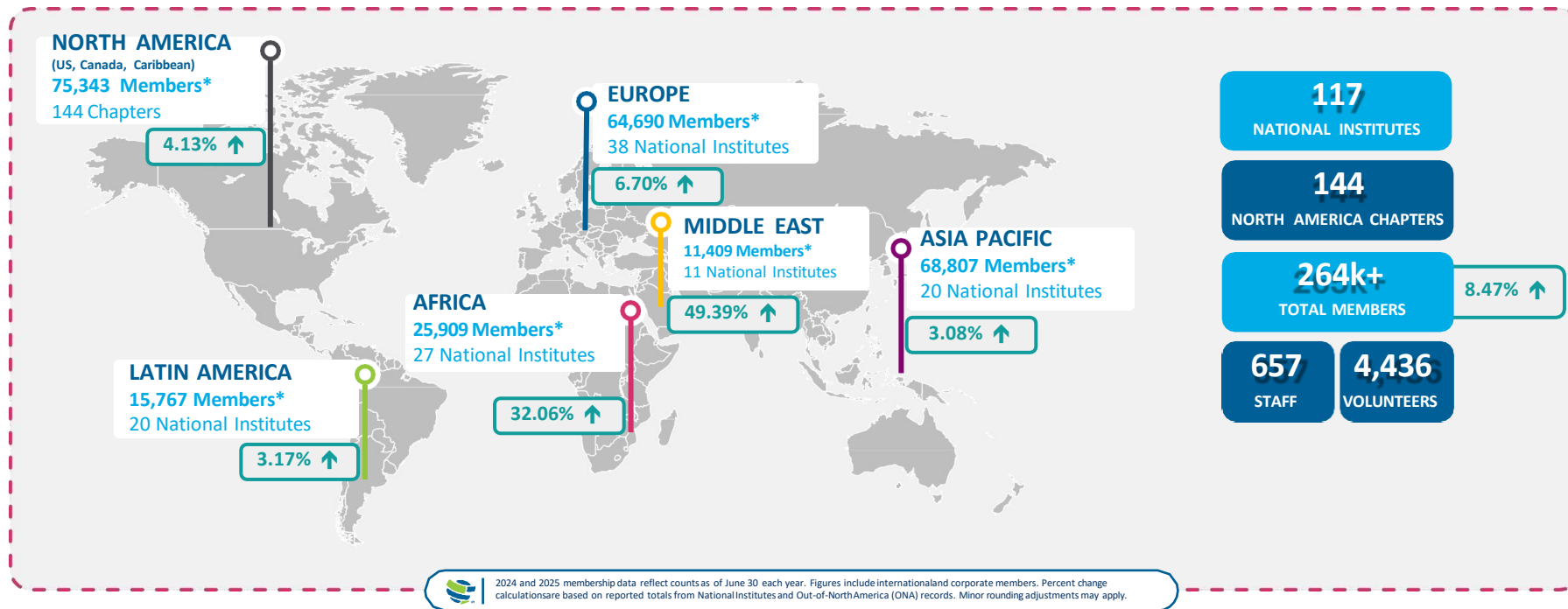
The Institute of
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India

We are Elevating Impact > **Global Presence**

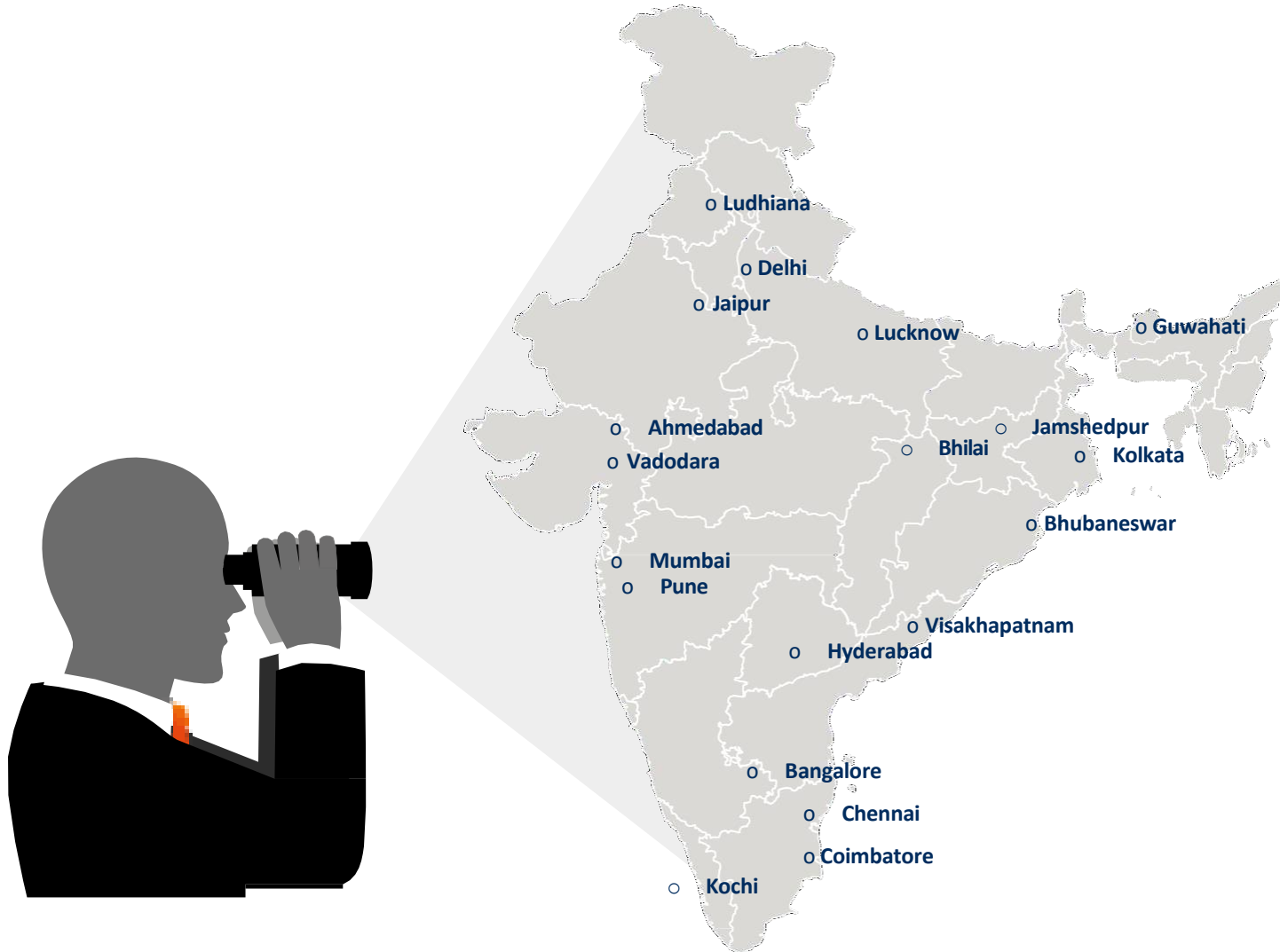
Our Global Community

264,000+ Member Across 170+ Countries



The IIA India's Footprint

The Institute of Internal Auditors-India (IIA-India) is affiliated to The Institute of Internal Auditors. IIA-India is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to the advancement and development of the internal auditing profession in India, in sync with the highest standards propagated by The IIA.



6800+ Members

6 Chapters

13 Audit Clubs



The Institute of
Internal Auditors
India

What is CIA Challenge Exam?

1. What is “CIA Challenge Exam”?

Members of one of the qualified accounting bodies, can take advantage of this rare opportunity to earn the Certified Internal Auditor® (CIA®) designation through an expedited process and join the more than 2,00,000 CIAs who have achieved this highly respected global certification. The Challenge Exam will include CIA content not already covered by your local accounting exam. In offering the Challenge Exam, The IIA continues to demonstrate the uniqueness of internal auditing as a profession and strengthens its strategic partnership with accounting bodies around the world.

2. How is it different from the regular CIA Exam (3 parts)?

The CIA Challenge exam is a condensed examination that consists of one examination with 150 objective type questions.

3. Will the Challenge Exam be conducted every year?

Yes; we expect it to be held every year.

4. Who conducts the CIA Challenge Exam?

The CIA Challenge Exam is conducted by the IIA Inc.



5. Who is eligible to take the CIA Challenge Exam?

Candidates who are active members of one of the qualified accounting bodies are eligible. Former members and students are ineligible.

6. Which are the 25 qualified accounting bodies?

1. CPA license from any US State Board
2. Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)[®]
3. Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)[®]
4. Chartered Accountants Ireland[®]
5. Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada)[®]
6. CPA Australia[®]
7. FSR - Danske Revisorer
8. EXPERTsuisse
9. Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA)[®]
10. Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland (CPA Ireland)[®]
11. Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK)[®]
12. Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)[®]
13. Institute of Chartered Accountants Ghana (ICAG)[®]
14. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) TM



Eligibility for CIA Challenge Exam



The Institute of
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India

15. Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)[®]
16. Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) [™]
17. Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA)[®]
18. Koninklijke Nederlandse Beroepsorganisatie van Accountants (NBA) [™]
19. Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) [™]
20. Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) [™]
21. Registro Oficial de Auditores de Cuentas (ROAC) [™]
22. Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants (SOCPA) [™]
23. South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) [™]
24. State of Israel Ministry of Justice-Board of Accountants[®]
25. Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA)-CISA Holder



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Elevating Impact

Eligibility for CIA Challenge Exam

7. I have just passed my accounting exam but am yet to take membership; Can I take CIA Challenge Exam?

You can only take the Challenge Exam if you are an active member of one of the 25 qualified accounting bodies.

8. How do I demonstrate that I am an active member of the accredited accounting body?

You will need to provide the following evidence of your active membership; a scanned copy of the CA certificate and a screen shot of the public registry ("**trace a member**") indicating your membership with the qualified accounting body is still active.

9. I am a Cost Accountant / Company Secretary / Chartered Financial Analyst; am I eligible to take CIA Challenge Exam?

No, only candidates from one of the 25 qualified accounting bodies may enroll in the CIA Challenge Exam. However, you may enroll in the traditional 3-part CIA program. Please refer to the CIA program eligibility requirements in the IIA India website.

Eligibility for CIA Challenge Exam

10. Can existing CIA registered students take this Challenge Exam? Will there be any concession in fee?

Candidates who are currently enrolled in the CIA traditional 3-parts program can take the CIA Challenge exam. However, fees already paid for the 3-parts program are non-refundable / nor transferable. Therefore, candidates have to apply and register separately to take the CIA Challenge exam. Please open a new case in your CCMS profile to request inactivation of the 3-parts CIA program to enroll in the challenge exam.

11. What type of ID will I be required to upload for registration and present during the exam?

- You will be required to upload and present a valid government-issued ID – matching the name on your ID with the name on your web account profile and in your appointment confirmation email. Please ensure that you possess a valid ID at the time of taking your exam.
- Acceptable forms of identification for those residing in India include; Aadhaar card, Indian Passport and Driver's license (only smart card). They must be presented in original at the time of exams and must be in English.

12. Is character reference needed? No

Registration for CIA Challenge Exam

13. How do I register for the Challenge Exam?

Initiate your first step for the CIA by becoming a member of IIA

<https://admin.iiaindia.co/members/newmember>

Kindly go through the following links

IIA India: (For IIA Members residing in India)

<https://iiaindia.co/GlobalCertification/CIAChallengeExam>

IIA Global:

<https://www.theiia.org/en/promotions/certifications/qab/qab-cia-challenge-exam-india/>
[CIA Challenge Exam for Qualified Information Systems Auditors \(theiia.org\)](https://www.theiia.org/en/promotions/certifications/qab/qab-cia-challenge-exam-india/)



Fee for CIA Challenge Exam

Exam	Fee (in US \$) – Resident in India (1.8.26)	
	IIA India Members	Non Members
CIA Challenge exam for Qualified Accounting body members –CA,CMA, CPA, etc. CISA holder and professional with 10+ years of experience in internal audit or related fields	Application Fee 90 (Valid for 3 years) Exam Fee 507 (Valid for 180 days)	Application Fee 380 Exam Fee 1245
Retake for Qualified Accounting body members – CA,CMA, CPA, etc. CISA holder and professional with 10+ years of experience in internal audit or related fields	Exam Fee 507 (Valid for 180 days)	Exam Fee 1245
GST will be applicable 18% on above fees		

14. What are the fees for the Challenge Exam? Can the fees be paid in installments?

Fees must be paid in full as per the table above. These are special prices applicable to IIA members residing in India. The fee includes the CIA Challenge exam application fee, CIA Challenge exam registration fee, and exam preparation package.

15. Is there a refund if the Challenge Exam is not taken for any reason or one is not able to get certificate of active membership from relevant accounting body?

No refunds, in part or whole, will be provided to candidates once the application for CIA Challenge exam is submitted.

16. What is the amount of concession for the members residing in India?

An IIA member residing outside India will need to pay 33 1/3% more than a member residing in India. In comparison to non-members, the concession is significantly higher.

Fee for CIA Challenge Exam

17. What fees do I need to pay to become a member of IIA India?

- The fees for membership in India is INR 2,000 (one time) for registration and INR 4,500 annually plus applicable taxes (18% GST)
- Refer for <https://admin.iiaindia.co/members/newmember> becoming a member.

17. How does the Challenge Exam costs compare with the regular 3-parts CIA exam?

Strictly speaking, the two are not comparable because:

- Significant time saving available with the Challenge Exam (possible to clear in one sitting).
- Challenge Exam fee includes access to the study material also for the challenge exam which has to be separately purchased for the 3-parts exam, over and above the application / exam fees.
- Challenge Exam fee includes exam application fee, registration fee and exam preparation package (study material – online access to CCMS).

19. Importance of Coaching Classes for Exam Preparation

While it is not mandatory to attend any coaching classes, it is crucial to note that the examination is reasonably tough, with a passing percentage of only about 40% with candidates from CA background. For those who may find it challenging to focus, invest time regularly, and practice the test bank independently, we strongly recommend considering joining a coaching class. Coaching classes provide a conducive environment for studies, peer pressure that fosters discipline and motivation, and structured guidance from experienced instructors.

Pass Rates Per Program in India 2021 - 2024

Program	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Delivered	Pass	Delivered	Pass	Delivered	Pass	Delivered	Pass
CIA Part 1	341	33%	305	34%	339	32%	492	40%
CIA Part 2	271	37%	223	46%	181	48%	242	45%
CIA Part 3	122	70%	130	61%	188	46%	206	47%
Accounting Challenge	311	33%	391	30%	254	30%	324	36%
IT Challenge					10	20%	51	51%

The exam volumes for IT Challenge, CRMA and IAP volume are too small to report pass rates reliably.

Prepare for CIA Challenge Exam

20. How do I prepare for the exam? Are there any coaching material available for my studies?

- As part of the application bundle, candidates will receive a digital copy of the customized CIA Learning System from IIA Global. This has a bank of 1000 questions.

21. Are there any classes for CIA Challenge Exam available in India?

IIA India Bombay Chapter is conducting crash course , completed 3 crash course batches and 4th batch is in process. Contact Vikas Yadav - 9326652393 /Pritam Mandal - 7021918296 Email -bombaychapter@iiaindia.co

22. When will I receive the customized CIA Learning System?

- Once approved into the program, candidates will receive the email invitation for the CIA Learning System Study Guide within seven days from The IIA's CIA Distribution Center with the subject line, "Action Required - Your IIA Online Access." Candidates will need to activate the CIA Learning System separately. For questions or assistance with the CIA Learning System, please reach out to customercare@learncia.com in inquire further. The IPPF can be accessed [here](#).

Syllabus for CIA Challenge Exam?

23. What is the syllabus for the CIA Challenge Exam?

B = Basic P= Proficient

Syllabus for Qualified Accounting Bodies

<https://www.theiia.org/globalassets/site/certifications/challenge-exam/qab-syllabus.pdf>

Section 1: Essentials of Internal Auditing 35%

Section 2: Practice of Internal Auditing 43%

Section 3: Business Knowledge for Internal Auditing 22%

Syllabus for CISA holders

<https://www.theiia.org/globalassets/site/certifications/challenge-exam/challenge-exam-for-cisas-syllabus.pdf>

Section 1: Essentials of Internal Auditing 50%

Section 2: Practice of Internal Auditing 30%

Section 3: Business Knowledge for Internal Auditing 20%

Candidates may also refer to the orientation training conducted in April 2021. The link for the same is as follows:

<https://www.iiaindia.co/GlobalCertification/CIAChallengeExam> at the bottom

Syllabus for CIA Challenge Exam?

24. Can I download and share the study material provided for the challenge exam?

Yes, you can download the material:

- You can download the ePub file. This is not printable. Once downloaded it belongs to the candidate with no expiration date.
- The license agreement states that the materials are only licensed to one individual user so you may download the study guide for only you to use for your personal study. We recommend downloading to a tablet device, such as an iPad. **This material can only be downloaded once.**
- You may also read all the content online while you are logged into the software. Online access which is valid for 1 year.
- There is also an online quiz with 1000 practice questions.

Syllabus for CIA Challenge Exam?

25. How do I download the E-Books if I don't have an iPad or Android Tablet?

Please follow the instructions below to download The IIA's CIA Learning System e-book if you do not have an iPad or Android device:

Adobe Digital Editions 3.0 will allow you to view and read your ePub file on your computer. As part of the license agreement, the materials may NOT be printed or shared. They may only be downloaded one time and only used by the candidate who was issued the initial access.

- Install Adobe Digital Editions 3.0 to your computer. It is available for free, by clicking here: <https://www.adobe.com/support/digitaleditions/downloads.html>. **Links to the installer are near the bottom of the page.**
- After Adobe Digital Editions is installed on your computer, select the "ePub" version and open with Adobe Digital Editions 3.0.
- After the file opens in Adobe Digital Editions, go to the "Library" button and "Copy To Library."
- You will now be able to read the CIA Learning System E-book on your computer.

Note: please use Version 3.0 of Adobe Digital Editions. There have been numerous issues reported when learners try to use other versions.

Qualification Requirements

26. What is the minimum requirement for passing the exams?

- Candidates must obtain a score of 600 or higher (out of 750) to pass the examination.

27. How many attempts can I take in the Challenge Exam? When can I take my second attempt?

- Once approved for the CIA Challenge exam, candidates have 3 years to complete the program requirements and obtain their CIA certification.
- Unsuccessful candidates may retake the exam in one of the testing windows within the 3-year program window.
- There is a concessional fee US\$ 845 for CISA holder for candidates from IIA members in India retaking the exam.
- There has to be a waiting period of 60 days between examination attempts

28. When will I receive my CIA certification once I cleared the examination?

- After your program and examination are reviewed you will obtain your CIA designation. This usually occurs within 7 business days after successfully passing the examination.

CIA Challenge Exam Schedule

29. What is the process for registering & taking the Challenge exam?

Program Timeline for new applicants:

Application and Registration window: Open till 30th Sep 2025

Exam Scheduling : August 2025/November 2025/February 2026 (within 180 days of application)

First Attempt Testing Window: August 2025/November 2025/February 2026 (within 180 days of application)

Program Timeline for retake examinations

- Registration & Scheduling: All year
- Re-take Test Windows: February ,June, August, November

- After application & payment, candidates need to register for the exam and sit for the exam within 180 days of application approval & payment. Case to case exception will be available based on specific requests if the pandemic situation remains unpredictable.
- Once your application is approved and payment is made, you can schedule your test at a PearsonVUE testing center via your CCMS profile by selecting “Access PearsonVUE”.
- Unsuccessful candidates may retake the exam in one of the testing windows within the 3-years of application and approval, after a minimum gap of 60 days, by paying the concessional fees of US\$633.75+18% except US\$845+18% for CISA.

CIA Challenge Exam

30. Do I need to visit any center for taking the exams?

Yes, you may find your local testing center by going to www.pearsonvue.com/iaa/ and select “**Find a test center**”. After approved into the program and scheduling your examination the system will show the calendar of open available appointments.

Candidates are advised to check seat availability in a location of their choice well in advance.

31. When will I receive my score?

You can access your score report approximately 24 hours after your exam by going to your CCMS profile and clicking Access PearsonVUE > view score reports.

CIA Challenge Exam

33. Can I consult or refer a book / study material during the exams?

No. CIA is not an open book exam. Books / Study Material CANNOT be referred during the exams.

34. What are the benefits of CIA Certification?

- **Global Recognition:** The CIA is the only globally recognized internal audit certification, and its value is appreciated across the world. Becoming a CIA and a member of the IIA allows you to multiply these benefits.
- **Proficiency, Credibility & Improved Competencies:** CIAs understand internal audit and develop competencies in internal auditing activities. The term “CIA” assures of a dedicated professional who is willing to invest in personal growth.
- **Higher Income:** As per various surveys, CIA certification enables the members to earn higher average income compared to non-certified peers, across all major economies.
- **Job Opportunities:** CIA makes more job opportunities available to you irrespective of your position or experience. As per the [2019 Robert Half Salary Guide](#), demand for internal auditors is increasing.
- **GRC Expertise:** The IIA curriculum ensures that CIAs can provide assurance on risk management, corporate governance, internal control, and operations in all kinds of businesses. These skill sets are in higher demand in the globalising economy.

CIA Challenge Exam

35. Is there any Negative marking in CIA challenge exam: **No**

36. Is Different question carrying difference score weightage: **Yes**

37. Can student get physical certificate:

They should expedite shipping which is around 100\$ USD. Standard shipping can take up to 15 weeks.

38. Can Student change centre after scheduling exam

Yes, 75\$ USD reschedule fee applies.

39. Can student skip to pay materials cost (\$250) from application fee.

No this is required.

40. Can student extend the validity of materials

Yes, Can be extended for 12 months for an additional fee.

41. Is Gleim test series available ? **Yes – for 2 months -\$100 and for 6 months -\$125**

[IIA India - Gleim Exam Prep](#) – Purchase link

CIA Challenge Exam

42. When newly quailed CIA has to report CPE first time?

Before 31st Dec of next calendar year.

43. Till what date CIA designation or certificate will be valid without CPE reporting?

24 Months under Grace Period from first reporting due date.

44. Can IIA revoke my CIA Designation.

Yes after Grace Period IIA will revoke the CIA Designation and you have reappear for exam.

45. What is CPE reporting fee every year?

\$30 for IIA India Member and \$120 for Non Member.

IIA Mumbai Chapter – CIA Challenge Examination coaching Class schedule



IIA Mumbai Chapter – CIA Challenge Examination coaching Class schedule

Session #	Session Details	Session Mode	Date	Day	Timing
Session 1	Part 1 Common for all	Live	02-Oct-25	Thursday	Morning 7 am to 11 am
Session 2	Part 1 Common for all	Live	04-Oct-25	Saturday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 3	Part 1 Common for all	Live	05-Oct-25	Sunday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 4	Part 1 Common for all	Live	11-Oct-25	Saturday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 5	Part 1 Common for all	Live	12-Oct-25	Sunday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 6	Part 1 Common for all	Live	18-Oct-25	Saturday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 7	Part 2 Common for all	Live	19-Oct-25	Sunday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 8	Part 2 Common for all	Live	25-Oct-25	Saturday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 9	Part 2 Common for all	Live	26-Oct-25	Sunday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 10	Part 2 Common for all	Live	02-Nov-25	Saturday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 11	Part 3 Common for all	Live	08-Nov-25	Sunday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 12	Part 3 For CA/ ACCA/ CPA	Live	09-Nov-25	Saturday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 13	Part 3 For CA/ ACCA/ CPA	Live	15-Nov-25	Sunday	Morning 11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Session 14	Part 3 for CISA	Recorded			
Session 15	Part 3 for CISA	Recorded			



IIA India's Contacts

47. Who should we contact at IIA India for CIA Certification / CIA Challenge Exam?

Location	Mobile No.	Email ID
Bengaluru	9611504461	bangalorechapter@iiaindia.co
Chennai	9884716160	madraschapter@iiaindia.co
Delhi	9910690585	delhichapter@iiaindia.co
Hyderabad	9391690256	hyderabadchapter@iiaindia.co
Kolkata	7980586848	calcuttachapter@iiaindia.co
Mumbai	9326652393	bombaychapter@iiaindia.co (Vikas Yadav – For coaching)
IIA India	8287359493 9004512247	Coordination@iiaindia.co (Chanchal Mishra) Coordinator@iiaindia.co



Dhanyan Francis

Assistant Manager,
Deloitte

Dear Arpit Sir, I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your invaluable guidance and support throughout my CIA journey. This was my **second** attempt and I now realize how crucial the right direction and conceptual clarity are in preparing effectively. Reflecting on my first attempt, I made the mistake of diving into MCQs without a strong foundation, which ultimately cost me. Joining your class changed everything. Your methodical approach, clear explanations, and emphasis on understanding the core concepts before attempting questions made all the difference this time. The MCQs provided in the LMS, when combined with the conceptual clarity you helped me achieve, were more than sufficient for passing the exam. I truly appreciate how you ensured every topic was well understood before moving forward. Thank you once again for being such a dedicated mentor and playing a key role in this success.

WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?





WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?



Prasanna Indi

Head Internal Audit,
Universal Sompo General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Hi Arpit,

One more feather to add on to your cap. I have cleared the exam on 23rd August. I would be strongly recommending in my known professional sphere to go through training and MCQ diligently and one would be assured of passing. I could not attend all the online classroom training due to other engagements but I made a point of going through recorded training . Since only materials does not help, your mechanism of imparting conceptual clarity gave immense help.

Thanks to you Arpit once again





WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?



Hema Chavan

Senior Internal Auditor,
Archroma

A big thanks to you Arpit Sir. I cleared my CIA challenge exam. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your guidance and support. Your teachings have been invaluable, and I'm truly grateful for your mentorship. Your methodology of teaching, approach and clarity of concepts helped me a lot in understanding the content. Your consistent encouragement and your patience in explaining the topics were the game changer.

Thanks once again!





WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?



Koushik Hariharan

Assistant Manager – Risk & Control,
Equiniti

Hi Arpit,
Delighted to share that I cleared the CIA Challenge exam today. I must say that your classes, notes and MCQs were very useful for preparation. Thank you for providing exam oriented guidance and making the challenge exam not so challenging!!





WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?



Lokeshwar Raju

Ind Consultant – Internal Audit,
Aon

Hi Arpit Sir Your challenge exam video classes has been really a game-changer for me and the clear & concise ppt slides for revision and the MCQs..... Every bit of these helped me to clear the CIA Challenge exam and many thanks again for all the support and encouragement!! 🙌🙌





WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?



Athira Sadanandan

Manager – Internal Controls Management Europe & Asia,
SAP

Hi Arpit, I'm happy to share that I've cleared the CIA exam! With my hectic schedule, I found it really hard to even go through the study materials. But thanks to your recorded sessions, I was able to listen to them diligently during my commute to and from the office and also solve all the MCQs provided in the last two weeks. Most of the questions and key points came directly from your study materials. During revisions, I only had time to review the "key points to remember," but that alone was sufficient to clear the Exam. Thank you for the well-structured sessions and for providing such clarity on each concept.





WHAT OUR PARTICIPANT SAY?



Ishan Pathak
Manager , EY

Dear All,

I am pleased to inform you that I have successfully cleared the CIA examination. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Arpit for his exceptional guidance and support throughout the journey.





Thank You

For Queries please contact:

memberservices@iiaindia.co

Coordinator@iiaindia.co

coordination@iiaindia.co (Chanchal Mishra)

Mobile: 8287359493