



President's COMMUNIQUE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Ashish Shah

President, IIA Bombay Chapter

Dear Esteemed Members and Internal Audit Professionals,

Greetings!

It is with immense pride, humility, and a profound sense of responsibility that I address you as President of The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Bombay Chapter for the term 2026–27. Having had the privilege of serving this Chapter over the years — as a Board Governor and in various other capacities — I accept this responsibility with deep gratitude for the journey that has brought me here and with a strong sense of purpose for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Before looking forward, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the leadership that has brought the Chapter to this point. I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to our Immediate Past President, Abha Sarda, for her outstanding stewardship during the past year. Under Abha's leadership, the Chapter made meaningful progress across membership growth, advocacy, strategic partnerships, professional engagement, and the value delivered to our members and the wider Internal Audit community. Her thoughtful and inclusive leadership, her commitment to strengthening professional networks, and her focus on preparing our members for a rapidly evolving profession have positioned the Chapter on a strong and stable foundation.

On behalf of the entire membership, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Abha for a term distinguished by dedication, warmth, purpose, and progress. Much of the momentum we carry forward today is a reflection of her leadership, and I look forward to building on that foundation with her continued guidance and support.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to our Past Presidents, whose collective wisdom and institutional memory remain among the Chapter's greatest strengths. My appreciation goes equally to the Board of Governors, Working Committees, IIA staff, volunteers, sponsors, and partners whose commitment and tireless efforts have enabled the Chapter to progress year after year. A special note of thanks to our Advisors — Mr. Adithya Bhat, Mr. Burzin Dubash, Mr. Nagesh Pinge, Mr. S. Bhaskar, and Mr. Satish Shenoy — for their counsel, encouragement, and continued guidance in advancing the Chapter in a positive and purposeful direction.

The IIA Bombay Chapter is today well positioned to make an even stronger contribution to the Internal Audit profession. It is on this foundation of strength, experience, and goodwill that I am privileged to build. As I take on this responsibility, my endeavour for 2026–27 will be to honour the momentum already created while challenging ourselves to think bigger, collaborate more deeply, and create lasting value for our members and the profession.



Our journey this year will be guided by the theme: Transcend > Transform > Thrive

The theme reflects where I believe our Chapter — and our profession — stand today: at an inflection point that calls us to transcend traditional notions of Internal Audit; to transform the way we work through technology, data, artificial intelligence, and new capabilities; and, ultimately, to thrive as a profession that is actively sought for insight, foresight, and strategic perspective — not merely assurance.

The Chapter will Focus on the Top Strategic Priorities Below:

- **Strengthen the Community:** Advocate for the Internal Audit profession while expanding and strengthening our Chapter community, with a continued focus on membership growth, engagement, and inclusion.
- **Future-Skill Our Members:** Expand CIA / CIA Challenge Exam participation, microlearning, and structured upskilling initiatives to equip emerging and mid-career auditors with the capabilities required for the future of the profession.
- **Deliver High-Impact Events:** Create purposeful initiatives that connect emerging and seasoned professionals, showcase the relevance of Internal Audit, and bring together the region's leading voices in audit, risk, governance, technology, and business.
- **Champion Technology & AI in Audit:** Prepare our members to promote deeper capability-building in AI and GenAI, data analytics, automation, and continuous auditing — moving beyond awareness towards meaningful adoption and application.
- **Expand Strategic Alliances:** Deepen relationships with other professional institutions and ecosystem partners to broaden the Chapter's influence, reach, and collective impact.

I am pleased to introduce and welcome the incoming Board of Governors (BoG) who will help steer the Chapter through this term. The Chapter will be led by Murtuza Kachwala as Senior Vice President, Pooja Dharewa as Vice President, Harshit Baxi as Secretary, Sridharan Kanan as Jt. Secretary, Kashyap Vaidya as Treasurer, Ritu Sethi as Jt. Treasurer, Abha Sarda as Immediate Past President. The other members of the BoG include Akhilesh Thakur, Ashish Athalye, Ketan Jogalekar, Madhavi Bhalerao, Manoj Agarwal, Mihir Muni, Percy Amalsadiwala, Piyush Chaturvedi, Prashant Daftary, Samit Saraf, and V. Swaminathan.

I am equally pleased to welcome our Chapter Invitees: Ashish Jaiswal, Harish Sukhdev Sharma, Chetan Thakkar, and Sarika Goel.

Looking forward to the continued support of Mehnaz Jhetam, Bijal Shah, Vikas Yadav and Riddhi Kawade.

Each member of this leadership group brings a wealth of experience, perspective, and expertise. I am confident that their collective commitment will be invaluable as we advance the Chapter's strategic priorities. Various Committees aligned to these objectives will be formalised shortly, with opportunities for volunteers across the Chapter to contribute their expertise and energy.

As we begin this year together, I warmly invite every member, volunteer, sponsor, partner, and well-wisher to be an active part of our journey. Whether by sharing your expertise, participating in our programmes, mentoring the next generation of professionals, supporting our initiatives, or simply bringing your voice and ideas to the table, your engagement will remain the heartbeat of the Chapter's success.

The responsibility of leading this Chapter is both an honour and a privilege. I look forward to working closely with all of you to build on our strong legacy, embrace the opportunities before us, and further strengthen the IIA Bombay Chapter as a leading voice for the Internal Audit profession. Together, let us transcend convention, transform with purpose, and thrive with outcomes.

Thank you for your continued trust, confidence, and support.

With gratitude,

Ashish Shah

President, 2026-27

The Institute of Internal Auditors, Bombay Chapter