



“You were born to win, but to be a winner, you must plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win.”

- Zig Ziglar



Dear Professional Colleagues,

The month of June, brought with it plenty of celebrations – both at the national as well as an institutional level. I would begin with that one achievement, that swelled the heart of each and every Indian across the globe with pride as India basked in the glory of picking up the T20 World Cup after a gap of 17 years. With great adulation for each of the Team members, it was a realization within, that even during all these years when we could not make it, there was a perseverance in efforts, a consistency in approach and a mindfulness in actions which ultimately yielded the desired results.

Each discussion that followed thereafter, witnessed all of us, picking our favorite players and admiring them individually; only to end up in applauding and commending the Team effort that we enjoyed in each of the matches leading up to the finale.

Friends, for us Indians, sports have served us some of the best examples to be quoted and shared in moments where a deeper understanding of the concept has been solicited; and this one big win is no different. Rather, I am sure it will be a part of all the motivational speeches to follow, henceforth.

With the build-up done, I cannot help find myself comparing the profession with the game and seek lessons therefrom. There are a few pointers that I wish to remember, long after the celebratory moments

have passed – and the prime amongst them is the fact that no loss or defeat or downfall is permanent as long as you hold the courage to stand back, persevere with vigour and walk the mile with your head held high...

Another moment of celebration has been accorded to the nation at large and the corporate sector in particular with the reappointment of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman as the Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs and the appointment of Shri Harsh Malhotra as Minister of State for Corporate Affairs & Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways. The Institute of Company Secretaries of India extends a warm welcome to both the dignitaries and we hope to work in close coordination with them for strengthening the corporate governance framework of the corporates which indeed is a prime mission for a nation aspiring to be Viksit Bharat.

Coming to the institutional line of achievements, I would begin by sharing the success of the 25th National PCS Conference.

PCS DAY AND PCS CONFERENCE : A CELEBRATION OF RECOGNITION

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You become what you believe in.

Stepping foot into practice is a form of self-belief for it takes tremendous courage to have faith in one's own ability and capabilities and embark on a solo journey of professional accomplishment. If PCS Day is a celebration of the recognition accorded by the

Regulatory Authorities decades ago, the National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries is a celebration of the courage and faith portrayed by the professionals.

This year as the Chapters, Regional Offices and CCGRTs celebrated the PCS Day in full fervour with intellectual deliberations and informal cake cutting ceremonies; we celebrated the silver jubilee – the 25th National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries in the heart of Ayodhya – the city known for both its religious history, cultural heritage as well as its role in laying the foundations of good governance. (Ram Rajya)

The presence of more than 400 delegates (physically) and 3800 delegates virtually along with Shri Asim Arun, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Social Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare presiding over as Chief Guest and Shri Nitish Kumar, IAS, District Magistrate, Ayodhya, Government of Uttar Pradesh as the Special Guest rendered the event all the more memorable. The deft discussions by experts indeed gave us plenty of food for thought and a zillion takeaways. My heartiest gratitude towards all of you who were able to be a part of it.

ECONOMIC ACCELERATION THROUGH CAPITAL MARKETS : VIKSIT BHARAT

“Success is where preparation and opportunity meet.”

- Robert William Unser, American Racer

The term 'Viksit' embodies the essence of development, signaling a rallying call for an empowered and prosperous Bharat. As the nation steers towards becoming a developed entity by its 100th year of independence in 2047, each stride forward resonates with the collective commitment to realize this ambitious dream.

The Indian Capital Markets, with SEBI at the helm, companies vying for finance, market intermediaries providing support and more than 150 million investors is one of the most sought-after trading grounds, one of the most debated and deliberated topics in the academic circles and one of the biggest breeding grounds of opportunity for us professionals.

One of the biggest hallmarks of the Capital Markets arena is the constantly altering dynamics of the market space. If the decades gone by witnessed research papers being rolled out on FDIs and FIIs, the ongoing decade is one marked by deliberations over technology and AI. We are looking at an unprecedented growth – not just in Sensex or Nifty but in the opportunities for Company Secretaries – irrespective of being in employment or practice.

The Capital Markets Week of 2024 was a combined celebration of all of that. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to share stage with Shri Amarjeet Singh, Whole-Time Member, SEBI, and Shri Ankit Sharma, CRO- Listing & Investor Compliance, NSE at the Inaugural Programme in Mumbai. My extreme gratitude towards Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, who while presiding over the Mega Programme at Delhi, in his very first address to the Governance Professionals made us all feel at ease with his forthcoming approach towards our issues and concerns. We do look forward to working together with the Ministry in strengthening the governance framework and creating out the challenges – all for a Viksit Bharat of tomorrow.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Shri K Rajaraman, Chairman, IFSCA, CS Dipesh Shah, ED, IFSCA, Mr. Praveen Trivedi, ED, IFSCA, Shri Vikas SS, General Manager, SEBI (Eastern Regional Office (ERO), Kolkata) and CS Pradeep Ramakrishnan, Executive Director, IFSCA – our Guests at the Mega Programmes and with them our esteemed array of speakers and panelists who guided the way for Economic Acceleration in Capital Markets and Exploring opportunities for professional in this arena.

FROM EXAMINATIONS TO RELAXATIONS : LIVING THE STUDENT LIFE TO THE HILT

Examinations form a major part of the student life. But with that, a student aspiring to be a professional must be armed with a wide variety of skills. The **Student Month** conducted in the month of July each year is an attempt of the Institute to create a sphere of opportunities wherein the Student Company Secretaries can understand the needs of the profession and inculcate in them the characteristics lacking.

If the celebration of days like Van Mahotsav, National Flag Adoption Day, Kargil Victory Day, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, World Nature Conservation Day aim to sensitize the students towards the environment, society and the nation; activities like Elocution, Debate, PowerPoint competition are intended at developing Communication and Soft skills of the students which will go a long way in enhancing their analytical and representational abilities. Add to that the fun factor, and we have painting and poster making wherein we seek to relish the hidden talents of our future members. All-in-all, it is going to be a month to look forward to !!!

With that, I am happy to announce the launch of this year's All India Company Law Quiz. For us as Company Secretaries, as Governance Professionals taking great pride in being the guardians of law and governance, company law stands at the very foundations of this pride. And it is for this reason that the Company Law is a core

subject under the Company Secretaryship Course as well. The All India Company Law Quiz is an attempt of the ICSI to upgrade the knowledge levels of students in Company Law and allied areas and to generate interest for in-depth study of the subject and gain greater conceptual clarity. To my young friends, I would like to remind that the Registrations for the competition have commenced from June 24, 2024 through online mode and I look forward to your participation in record breaking numbers.

Good luck !!!

DIVERSITY IN THOUGHT – DIVERSITY IN ACTION

“It is best to work among the youth in whom lies our hope – patiently, steadily and without noise.”

- Swami Vivekananda

Having attended two Convocations – one each for Southern and Eastern Region, attending a third one for the Western Region was no less delightful. Having our young members adorn the Indian attire and the angavastra, take the pledge, and with gleam in their eyes enter the professional world – gives me immense hope and fills me with immense satisfaction that the future is in the right hands.

This month as we conducted the third bi-annual Convocation for the Western region, in the heart of Indore, I was joined by Shri Shankar Lalwani, Member of Parliament from Indore as the Chief Guest and CS Ashish Garg, Former President, ICSI as the Guest of Honour. As I extend my gratitude towards both our guests I would also extend my best wishes towards all the young members for embarking upon a new journey of their lives – one that is going to shape – theirs, ours and the nation’s future !!!

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

- Anthony J. D’Angelo

Even though I was not able to attend the event personally, I would like to share another new attempt of the Institute wherein we organised a 3-Day Residential/Non-Residential Workshop on Laws relating to Arbitration with Recent Case Studies. The workshop which was an initiated by the ICSI-CCGRT Mumbai in collaboration with ICSI-International ADR Centre was marked by the presence of Hon’ble Justice (Retd.) Shri Ramesh D. Dhanuka, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay as Chief Guest during the inaugural session along with CS Devendra V Deshpande, Past President, The ICSI & Director of ICSI-International ADR Centre as Guest of Honor and Adv. Ashish Gogate. The Valedictory Session was graced by Hon’ble Justice Shri Manish Pitale of the High Court of Bombay as the Chief Guest; and I am deeply grateful towards all our dignitaries and experts for guiding our way and rendering this novel launch a grand success. I am hopeful that my dear professional

colleagues will be utilizing this new opportunity of arbitration to the best of their abilities.

I would also like to congratulate the Pune Chapter of WIRC of ICSI for successfully organizing the Annual Regional PCS Conference 2024 on the theme “Shaping the Future: Trends and Insights for Tomorrow” and raising pertinent discussions. My best wishes to all our regional Offices and Chapters for their future endeavours.

JULY: THE MONTH OF LEARNING, GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

The month of July begins with the celebration of the new tax regime of indirect taxes – the GST or Goods and Services Tax – a tax that was given the acronym expansion of ‘Good and Simple Tax’ and has been proving itself ever since its launch in the year 2017. Ever since, as India’s GST Partner we not only lead discussions and deliberations but embark on explorations for opportunities in this arena and make sure that Company Secretaries are one of the most sought-after professionals in this arena.

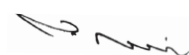
If the previous month was all about Company Secretaries in Practice, the dates in the calendar for the month of July are encircled for the Company Secretaries in Employment.

Another achievement for the entire fraternity that I feel delighted to share is the opening of a new Chapter in Gandhinagar – Gift City. As I welcome the new Managing Committee Members, I am sure this decision of the Council will have a long ranging impact on the professionals stationed not only in an around the city – but across the nation and intending to explore the opportunities offered by the IFSC.

With the altering dynamics of the corporate scenario, the need to pursue excellence and perfection in every arena of professional activity has grown manifold – especially for Corporate CS – the sub-set of Company Secretaries employed with India Inc. as the inside guardians and caretakers of good governance. As we step into the 5th edition of the National Conference of Corporate CS, I invite you all to join us in the magnanimous and historical city of Kolkata “City of Joy” and relish, the deliberations on the theme “**Transformative Governance for Viksit Bharat**” to be held on July 19-20, 2024.

The city of Kolkata awaits you with its full grandeur...!

Yours Sincerely



CS B. Narasimhan
President, ICSI