



## ICSI INITIATIVES

### I. ICSI CCGRT, HYDERABAD – NALSAR LAW UNIVERSITY JOINT CORP-CON 2024

The ICSI Centre for Corporate Governance, Research and Training (CCGRT) Hyderabad, together with Nalsar University of Law-CCCL, Hyderabad, organised the 1st National Research Conference on Developments and Trends in Corporate Laws and Governance on 5-6-7 January 2024, at the Nalsar University of Law Campus, Hyderabad.

The Conference was a platform for exchange of ideas, valuable deliberations, discussions and insights into the most pressing issues and trends in corporate law and governance, and it also witnessed Research Paper Presentations from Researchers and Scholars.

### II. INAUGURATED ITS 3<sup>rd</sup> CCGRT IN KOLKATA

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India inaugurated its 3<sup>rd</sup> **Centre for Corporate Governance, Research and Training (CCGRT)** in New Town, Kolkata on 6 December 2023 in the benign presence of **Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal**.

Spread across an area of 1.5 Acre, the facility has an Educational Block and a Hostel Block, housing Classrooms, Library, Moot Courts, a Conference Room, a Yoga/Meditation Centre, a Badminton Court, an open-air theatre and an Auditorium with a capacity of 300 people.

### III. 51<sup>st</sup> National Convention of Company Secretaries

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India is organizing its **51<sup>st</sup> National Convention of Company Secretaries on 2-3-4 November 2023, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

**Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar** has kindly consented to be the **Chief Guest** and **Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Anandiben Patel** has kindly consented to be the **Guest of Honour** at the **Inaugural Session on 2 November 2023**.

To be organized on the theme **India @ G20- Empowering sustainable future through Governance & Technology**, the ICSI National Convention will be a platform for dialogues between regulators, industry leaders, professionals, and other stakeholders who would deliberate on the imperative of developing a strong governance culture with global relevance.

### IV. 55<sup>th</sup> FOUNDATION DAY OF THE ICSI

The Institute celebrated its 55<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in New Delhi, in the august presence of **Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, and **Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**.

The event also witnessed the presence of **Shri Manoj Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, and **BK Shivani**, recipient of the prestigious **Nari Shakti Puraskar**.

Around 50,000, Company Secretaries, Industry Leaders, Senior Government Officials, and other Corporate Professionals attended the celebrations, 1500 at the venue, and the rest virtually through ICSI weblink and social media platforms.

The Institute unveiled a very important initiative on the occasion, **The ICSI Fee Waiver Scheme for Defence Personnel, Agniveers and families of Martyrs**, and also presented a cheque to the **Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs**, for an amount of **Rs. 11,00,000/-** as a donation to the **Ministry of Defence, Government of India**, for the **education of the girl child of Martyrs**.

## **V. ICSI NCLT CONCLAVE**

The Institute initiated the **ICSI NCLT Conclave** this year to sensitize Company Secretaries on NCLT and NCLAT practices and build their capacities, by organizing seminars across fifteen different locations in India.

The topics for these seminars were suggested by the Hon'ble President, NCLT and 10 such Conclaves have taken place so far in the presence of the Hon'ble Judicial and Technical Members of NCLT Benches.

## **VI. ICSI CORPORATE TAX CONFERENCE - DUBAI**

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organized a **Corporate Tax Conference in Dubai, UAE on 3 June 2023** in association with **ICSI Middle East (DIFC) NPIO** on the theme **UAE Corporate Tax – A New Paradigm Towards Transparency and Good Governance**. **Mr. K. Kalimuthu, Consul (Economic, Trade & Commerce) Consulate General of India, Dubai**, graced the occasion as the **Chief Guest**. **Dr. Ram Buxani, Chairman, ITL Cosmos Group, Dubai** and **Mr. Suresh Kumar, Chairman, IBPC, Dubai**, were the **Guest (s) of Honour**.

## **VII. 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ICSI OVERSEAS CENTRE – LONDON**

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organized its **2nd International Conference of ICSI Overseas Centre in London, United Kingdom on 11-12 May 2023**. The theme of the conference, **Strengthening Global Governance for an Equitable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Future**, provided a platform to envision probity in governance.

Eminent Speakers from across jurisdictions steered engaging discussions spanning a series of knowledge-sharing sessions in this unique two-day event.

## **VIII. INITIATIVES FOR MEMBERS**

### **ICSI International ADR Centre**

A multi-city and hopefully multi-nation project launched at the 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Kolkata, the ICSI International ADR Centre has been incorporated with the intent of creating a conducive ecosystem – one which aids the existing judicial structure – helps in the de-clogging of the courts and provides justice at a speed unparalleled. With the first Centre intended to be opened in Hyderabad, the idea is to take this initiative across the various cities possessing good infrastructural facilities. The ADR Centre is ICSI's attempt to support the nation's judicial ecosystem thus strengthening the overall governance ecosystem.

### **ICSI Start-up and MSME Catalyst**

Understanding the need for a friend, philosopher, and guide at every step of the way for start-ups and MSMEs, the ICSI rolled out a unique initiative, 'Start-up & MSME Catalyst'. As seasoned professionals, adept in the legal framework and aptly attuned to the needs of the start-ups, Company Secretaries can extend support in almost all arenas of Start-ups right from their registration, to Accounting, Tax, and Finance, and even Investment / Fund Raising not to mention affirming legal compliance. The Institute commenced the enrolment of Company secretaries as MSME Catalysts on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

### **ICSI Institute of Social Auditors**

With the Social Stock Exchanges being formed under the SEBI Regulations, social audit and social auditors shall be playing a pivotal role going forward. Incorporated on October 4, 2022, and launched at the 54th Foundation Day of the ICSI, the ICSI Institute of Social Auditors is a section 8 company, created with the intent of strengthening the social audit and impact assessment, of the social governance ecosystem in the country. The ICSI-ISA will develop Standards for Social Audit, register Social Auditors, lay down their standards of professional conduct, and partner with NISM for the development and delivery of Courses on Social Audit.

### **ICSI Social Audit Standards**

The Institute has developed the ICSI Social Audit Standards (ICSI -SAS) covering all 16 activities enumerated under Regulation 292E(2)(a) of SEBI (ICDR), Regulations 2018, to provide guidance in conducting the Social Audit of a Social Enterprise engaged in any of such 16 activities. The ICSI-SAS were released at the 24<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries.

## **IX. ICSI DIGITAL REVOLUTION**

### **E-Learning Revolution**

The Institute has completely transformed its remote learning landscape into real-time by conducting a series of focused webinars, rolling out various online Self-Assessment Modules, Crash Courses, and Certificate Courses, and providing Free Video Lectures, to upskill its members and students, since the year 2020.

Besides moving all offline training for students to the virtual platform, the Institute also introduced an e-credit hour facility for members, since the lockdown for their continued professional development.

### **Facilitating ICSI members and students through personalized Digi locker**

Digitization necessitated the requirement of Electronic Documents. ICSI having joined the Digi Locker Platform of the Government of India in October 2019, is now allowing its members and students to download and save their Identity Cards, Associate and Fellow Certificates, Certificates of Practice, and Professional Programme Pass Certificates (for students who passed the Examination in or after June 2021 Session) from the Digi locker anytime, anywhere.

### **UDIN**

The ICSI UDIN or Unique Document Identification Number is a system-generated alphanumeric number that provides ease of maintaining the Register of Attestation/ Certification Services rendered by practicing members. UDIN ensures compliance with the

Guidelines issued by the Institute with respect to ceilings on the number of certification/attestation services.

### **eCSin**

ICSI launched the Employment Specific Unique Identification Number of a Company Secretary (eCSin), a random alphanumeric number generated at the time of appointment and at the time of demitting office. eCSin brings greater transparency, ensures better governance, and facilitates verification of the authenticity of employment of Company Secretaries

## **X. RECOGNITIONS**

### **UGC recognizes Company Secretary Qualification as equivalent to a PG Degree**

The University Grants Commission, India, has recognized the Company Secretary Qualification as equivalent to Post Graduate Degree

### **UKENIC - UK's National Agency benchmarked the ICSI qualification**

UK ENIC (formerly known as UK NARIC) UK's National Agency responsible for providing informed advice and guidance on vocational, academic, and professional qualifications, has benchmarked the ICSI qualification as equivalent to a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in UK and UAE with the following details:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>UK Qualifications</b>	<b>UAE Qualifications</b>
CS Executive Programme	RQF Level 6 [Bachelor degree standard]	QFEmirates Level 7 [Bachelor degree standard]
CS Professional Programme	RQF Level 7 [Master degree standard]	QFEmirates Level 9 [Master degree standard]

### **The Chartered Secretary Journal listed under UGC-CARE**

The Chartered Secretary Journal has been listed under the Prestigious listing of Journals by UGC, the UGC-CARE (Consortium for Academic Research and Ethics), making the reach of our August journal global. Beginning January 2023, the Journal also qualifies to achieve higher global ranks enhancing the image of the Institute and the nation.

### **Practising Company Secretaries authorized to issue a Certificate of Compliance**

Practising Company Secretaries have been authorized under the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 issued vide Gazette Notification dated 14th January, 2022, to issue a Certificate of Compliance to the issuer certifying that the proposed preferential issue is being made in accordance with the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018.

### **The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Recognition**

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in its Circular 329/IFSCA/DPM/TS/QJ/2021- 22/1 dated 19th January 2022 pertaining to Qualified Jewellers importing gold through India International Bullion Exchange has authorized Practising Company Secretaries to certify the average annual turnover in the last 3 financial years and net worth of the entity so as to be permitted to act as a "Qualified Jeweller"

### **Recent SEBI Recognitions**

1. SEBI has bestowed a new recognition under SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/ CIR/2022/156 dated November 17, 2022, read along with Regulation 59A of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 wherein while processing the draft scheme of the arrangement, SEBI may seek clarifications from any person relevant in this regard including the listed entity or the Stock Exchange(s) and may also seek an opinion from an Expert such as Practicing Company Secretary at par with other professionals. Further, a detailed Compliance Report is to be certified by the Company Secretary of the Company along with other senior management, in the format specified by the SEBI which is to be submitted to Stock Exchanges.
2. SEBI has bestowed upon the profession of Company Secretaries new recognition under SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-RACPOD1/P/CIR/2022/154 dated November 14, 2022, read along with Regulation 51A of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 wherein the entity has to appoint a Company Secretary as a compliance officer, for being providing the services of Online Bond Platform Provider (OBPP). Further, the entity has to appoint at least two qualified key managerial personnel with experience of at least three years in the securities market in which the qualification of Company Secretaryship has been specifically included in the definition of “Qualified”.

### **XI. 1ST GURU SHRESTHA AWARDS**

In its endeavour to acknowledge the immense contribution of educators in shaping the future of the country, the ICSI launched it's the ICSI Guru Shrestha Awards in the year 2022.

The awards are conferred on Lecturers/Professors/Faculties from the field of Commerce/Law/Management, where Faculties are evaluated by an expert group and eminent jury, comprising top academicians of the country, through a multi-layered evaluation process.

The awards for the year 2023 will be presented on January 12, 2024.

### **XII. GLOBAL FOOTPRINT**

#### **ICSI Overseas Centres**

With its Vision “**to be a global leader in promoting good Corporate Governance**” and its Mission “**to develop high calibre professionals facilitating good Corporate Governance**”, the Institute has set forth its foot in the international arena by setting up ICSI Overseas Centres in UAE, USA, UK, Singapore, Australia, and Canada.

The Centres would augment professional opportunities for ICSI members and facilitate practical training for students, besides assisting ICSI in conducting its examinations in these countries.

### **XIII. INITIATIVES FOR STUDENTS**

#### **New Syllabus 2022**

The ICSI released its New Syllabus 2022 at the 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention of Company Secretaries. The New Syllabus 2022 focuses on the core areas of the Company Secretary Profession and supplements it by laying emphasis on ancillary, legal, managerial, and other technical skills.

The new syllabus will ensure a smooth transition of students into governance professionals, corporate managers / corporate advisors by blending the practical, legal strategic, and managerial aspects together.

#### **Implementation of New Training Structure under CS (Amendment) Regulations, 2020**

The Institute, implemented its New Training Structure on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, as per Regulation 46BA and 46BB under The Company Secretaries (Amendment) Regulations, 2020. **Highlights of the new training structure are:**

- *One-month Executive Development Programme (EDP)*  
The Executive passed students are required to undergo One Month Executive Development Programme (EDP) that would equip them for the mandatory Practical Training in the industry / with Practising Company Secretary.
- *Practical Training*  
The students are required to undergo 21 months of practical training, with the Industry/Practising Company Secretary and other entities after completion of their one-month EDP.
- *Corporate Leadership Development Programme (CLDP)*  
After completion of the Professional Programme Examination and Practical Training, the students are required to undergo the Corporate Leadership Development Program (CLDP) for honing their Communication, Legal, Managerial, and IT acumen.

#### **XIV. ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS**

##### **International Commerce Olympiad and ICSI Commerce Olympiad**

In an attempt to create awareness about the profession of Company Secretaries among school Students, the Institute has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF)** for conducting the **International Commerce Olympiad** and with **Humming Bird Education Limited** and **International Olympiad Foundation** for conducting **ICSI Commerce Olympiad**.

##### **ICSI Academic Connect**

The Institute introduced the ICSI Academic Connect to collaborate with various **IIMs, National Law University, and Institutions of national repute to impart knowledge and acuminate skills of students, academicians, and professionals**. Under the collaboration, the toppers of specific programmes of these Universities/Institutes will be awarded ICSI Signature Award Gold Medal and a scholarship to pursue the Company Secretary Course. The MoU would facilitate a comprehensive partnership in the areas of joint academic research, joint workshops, professional development & faculty development programmes along with sharing of resources and participation in conferences, workshops, and seminars.

#### **XV. ICSI SOCIAL INITIATIVES**

##### **ICSI Fee Waiver Scheme for Defence Personnel, Agniveers and Family of Martyrs**

The Institute launched the scheme, with a 100% waiver of Fee, payable at the time of Registration in the CS Executive programme, to the following categories of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and all the para-military forces:

- In Service/ Retired Personnel (including Defence Personnel who have taken retirement under short service commission)
- Wards of all personnel
- Wards and widows of martyrs

- Candidates who are inducted as “Agniveer” under AGNEEPATH Scheme of the Government of India after completing four years under the Scheme

All other fees, including training, will be applicable in full as per their respective category. The fee waiver scheme is a humble endeavour of the Institute in recognizing the contribution of the Defence Forces

### **Concession in Fees for Students Who Lost Their Parents**

To support such students, who lost their parents/legal guardian/adoptive parents due to any reason and to help them continue their education, the Institute has decided to grant a one-time concession in fees while registering for the CS Executive Programme.

### **ICSI Students Education Fund Trust**

The Institute has created the ICSI Students Education Fund Trust to encourage and motivate academically bright but economically backward students to pursue CS Course thus contributing to the objectives of nation-building and social responsibility.

*Preeti Kaushik Banerjee*

*Joint Secretary*

*Corporate Communication & International Affairs*

*Tel: 011-4534 1022*

*Email: preeti.banerjee@icsi.edu*

### **About ICSI**

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is a premier professional body set up under an Act of Parliament, i.e., the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, for regulating and developing the profession of Company Secretaries in India. It functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Institute, being a pro-active body, focuses on the best and top-quality education to students of the Company Secretaries Course and the best quality set standards for CS members. The Institute has over 72,000 members and around 2 lakh students on its roll.