

**“THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY.  
GOVERNANCE FOR ALL, GOVERNANCE BY ALL”**

Dear Professional Colleagues,

The governance norms had predominantly been followed in ancient India to govern day to day life and also to govern the relationships between two states, two individuals and/or also between the individual and the state. In India there is a great deal of similarity in the governance structures of the ancient Indian kingdoms and modern corporations which is evident from the ancient text and scriptures like Vedas, Manu Smruthi, Somadeva neeti stuti, Baharspatya Neeti stuti, Kautilya’s Arthashastra etc. which focuses on governance. All Upanishads, Vedas, and the Epic Kavyas like Mahabharat, Ramayan and Bhagwad Gita emphasize the essence of ethics being followed from within, be it Individual or be it the King or be it the whole kingdom.

Governance Practices followed in ancient period gains lot of relevance in today’s world. The Mauryan period was considered as one of the best administrative period over the entire world. It was Kautilya’s Arthashastra, written during the period of Chandra Gupta Maurya which made Mauryan Empire stronger in terms of administration. The delegation of authority and span of control discussed in Mauryan and Gupta period is what is propounded and practiced in today’s modern world. Today’s Management Principles focuses mainly on delegation of authority, responsibility and span of control as the main principles for better performance of duties. In today’s competitive world the question of survival depends on effective governance. Adherence to ancient practices can help and guide us in better governance.

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, a premier institute in India and acclaimed for promoting excellence in Corporate Governance through its various efforts and measures being taken for the advancement of the governance in corporate world. Keeping this in mind and working wholeheartedly towards achieving the objective of Corporate Governance, more so with the changes in time, our efforts should increasingly be in line with the cause of National Governance in order that India emerges as a world leader. Such a transformation calls for a journey that aims at connecting the dots between ‘**Local to Global (L2G)**’ aspects of governance. Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was also a strong believer of strengthening local self-government system and believed that every village must be strongly empowered to deal with local issues. In this backdrop, there is a need to further expand the horizon of the ICSI, i.e. facilitating Corporate Governance to citizen-centric approach where governance and development is activated at the grass root level. Besides, the need of the hour is to taking the cause of global governance to the newer heights.

Therefore, the ICSI is coming up with a “**Model Governance Code for Meetings of Gram Panchayats**” which seeks to prescribe a set of principles for convening and conducting Meetings of Gram Panchayats and matters related thereto. The fundamental principles with respect to Governance of Gram Panchayat Meetings are laid down in the respective State laws. This model code seeks to facilitate compliance with the said principles by endeavouring to provide further clarity where there is ambiguity and establishing benchmark standards to harmonise prevalent diverse practices. This model code does not seek to substitute or supplant any existing laws. It only strives to supplement such laws for promoting better governance in the functioning of Gram Panchayat.

In light of the above, your comments/suggestions are solicited on the enclosed [Model Governance Code for Meetings of Gram Panchayats](#) at [spb@icsi.edu](mailto:spb@icsi.edu).

Kindly send your comments/suggestions latest by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Best Wishes

Yours sincerely,

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**President, The ICSI**