



## PRESS RELEASE

### CHIEF OF BUSINESS BUREAU

**41st National of Company Secretaries INAUGURATED By Shri Sachin Pilot Hon'ble Minister of Corporate Affairs (I/C), Government of India.**



**Shri Sachin Pilot, Hon'ble Minister for Corporate Affairs (I/C)** releasing the Convention Souvenir at the inauguration of 41st National Conference organized by Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) at Chennai.

Also seen in the Photograph (from L to R): **CS R. Shridhran**, Council Member, The ICSI & Chairman Convention Organising Sub-Committee; **Shri M. J. Joseph**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; **CS S. N. Ananthasubramanian**, President Council of the ICSI and **CS C. Dwarka Nath**, Chairman SIRC of ICSI

### New Company Law give more powers to Company Secretaries: Shri Sachin Pilot

Chennai, Nov 7: **Company Secretaries will get more power when the New Companies Act comes fully into effect. Company Secretaries play a larger role in the form of a Chief Governance Officer and are the compliance officers in a corporate set up, said Hon'ble Minister for Corporate Affairs Shri Sachin Pilot at the inauguration of 41st National Conference organized by Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).**

In His Inaugural Address Shri Sachin Pilot said, "The governance has assumed centre-stage not only in India but across the globe and sooner the members of Company Secretaries will be elevated as Chief Governance Officers and Governance Professionals".

After passing of the Companies Act Company Secretaries will get more powers. With great Power comes greater responsibility and need of the hour is to be unbiased and fair in giving your views you are doing justice to your profession.

Minister further said, "**Company secretaries have to ensure the interest of stakeholders, shareholders employees, creditors of the company. Company Secretaries as a community is an effective tool to implement the new Company Law**". Good corporate governance requires efficient regulatory support and effective implementation tools, He added.

The need to continually redeem pledge and commitment to the trust and confidence placed on the, Company Secretaries, by the Society and regulators is important and critical to the sustenance and growth of the profession.

The real testimony to this is the Companies Act, 2013 which makes Company Secretaries Key Managerial Personnel and makes Secretarial Audit mandatory for certain class of companies. This provision in the Act showcases strategic importance of the Company Secretary in governance architecture of any company, he added.

“To live up to the expectations of not only the regulators but also other stakeholders, Company Secretaries should put their best efforts to turn the wheels and drive the governance regime.” Minister said.

**The 41st National Convention of Company Secretaries has been devised as “Transitioning from Company Secretary to Governance Professional”. Further the National Convention would deliberate threadbare how to develop and regulate professionals, particularly those engaged in governance, in the best interest of the State and the Society.**

The theme of the conference are under the following sub-themes in five technical sessions **a.** Model Framework for Developing and Regulating Professionals, **b.** merging Role of Professionals in the Economy and Society, **c.** Role of Governance Professionals, **d.** Making of a Governance Professional **e.** Panel Discussion: Ifs and Buts with Governance and Related Professionals.

**Guest of Honour, Shri M. J. Joseph, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs,** stated that the 41st National Convention of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India is being held at an historic time, with the enactment of the new Companies Act, 2013. The new law has substantially strengthened the role and position of Company Secretaries. In particular, the new law considers a Company Secretary as a Key Managerial Personnel (KMP); as a member of senior management in managing the affairs of a company in ensuring good corporate governance and enforcing regulation. For the first time, the functions of the Company Secretary have been specified under Section 205 of the Act.

He said that while opportunities for growth of the profession are clearly provided in the new law, duties of a Company Secretary will henceforth include the duty to report on frauds, either being committed or has been committed by a company. Along with the Internal Auditor and External Auditor, the Company Secretary can be considered to be the conscience keepers of corporate governance. The role of the Company Secretary can best be described as a fine balancing act – reconciling the interests of the company and society, through transparency, accountability and by ensuring high standards of corporate governance. It is a time for a renewal of leadership by the Institute, and its office bearers. I am sure that Company Secretaries will rise to the challenges of catering to the needs of improved standards of corporate governance in India, both in letter and spirit.

**CS S. N. Ananthasubramanian, President Council of the ICSI** dwelt upon the various initiatives made during the year; from introduction of Online Services Delivery to successful foray into OMR Mode in Foundation Examination to introduction of new Syllabi for Executive and Professional Examination; from introduction of placement portal and e-library to release of videos on Companies Act; from collaborations with National Institute of Securities Markets, Indian Institute of Banking Finance and Insurance Institute of India for widening avenues for our members and to introduction of Corporate Compliance Executive Scheme for our members-to-be; from adoption of Strategic Action Plan to induct Institute Governance to conducting a Strategy Meet leading to far-reaching takeaways for future positioning of ICSI.

He stated that **key aspects of the Companies Act deserve recall with delight- the first being the Company Secretary as a Key Managerial Personnel**, his/her functions defined in the Act and his/her duties defined in the Rules with clarity and content. This is far removed from the ministerial and administrative duties to be performed by CS mandated in the now vintage Act of 56.

**The second significant feature is the introduction of Secretarial Audit of Non-financial Information.** With multiplicity of Regulatory oversight, being the norm than exception, the Secretarial Audit Reports given by our Practising members would, it is expected, provide substantive insights into the way companies are governed. The makeover of PCS from attestation Professional to Secretarial Auditor is not merely cosmetic; its visceral, structural and complete in all respects.

**Hon’ble Justice Shri B. N. Srikrishna, Former Judge of Supreme Court of India and Chairman of FSLRC** while delivering his keynote address said, “While transitioning in to Governance Professional, Company Secretaries have to uphold the morals and ethics and act as the Conscience Keepers of their companies.”

While highlighting the theme of the convention “Transitioning from Company Secretaries to Governance Professionals” he said that new companies act will bring a revolutionary change in the role and functioning of the company secretaries.”.

**CS R. Shridhran, Council Member, The ICSI , Chairman Convention Organising Committee** delivered the Welcome Address.

**CS C. Dwarka Nath, Chairman SIRC-ICSI** introduced the dignitaries on the Dias.

About 1500 delegates including Company Secretaries, Managing Directors, CEOs, Directors, Senior Executives and professionals from India and abroad are participating in the National Convention. The three-day Convention will be addressed by captains of trade and industry, eminent experts, academicians, senior civil servants and professionals.

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