

VIKSIT BHARAT Programmes organised by ICSI HQ, Regional Councils and Chapters from March 11-15, 2024

WEBINAR ON

Viksit Bharat held on 14.03.2024



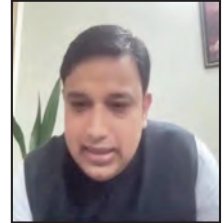
Speaker:
Shri Gopal Krishna Agarwal,
 Spokesperson of BJP
 (Economic Affairs)



Speaker:
Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi,
 IAS (Retd.), Director General, Indian Institute
 of Public Administration, New Delhi



Addressed by:
CS Dhananjay Shukla,
 Vice- President, The ICSI



Moderator:
CS Suresh Pandey,
 Council Member,
 The ICSI



WIRC



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EIRC



Ahmedabad



Bhubaneswar



Faridabad



Nagpur



Panipat



Thane



Hooghly



Kanpur

International Women's Day Celebration at ICSI Regional Councils and Chapters



EIRC



Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar



Faridabad



Jodhpur



Gurugram



Thane

2ND NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE HELD ON MARCH 22-23, 2024 AT BENGALURU

Theme - Inspire Women Leadership - Accelerate Progress

Chief Guest : Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Managing Director & CEO, HDFC Life

INAUGURAL SESSION



TECHNICAL SESSION - 1



TECHNICAL SESSION - 2



TECHNICAL SESSION - 3



TECHNICAL SESSION - 4



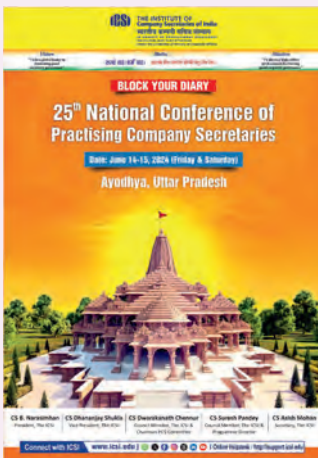
OPEN HOUSE



GROUP PHOTO



Releases at the 2nd National Women's Conference- 2024



Proceedings of the 2nd National Women's Conference Held on March 22-23, 2024 at Bengaluru

Theme - Inspire Women Leadership - Accelerate Progress

The Institute organized its 2nd National Women's Conference at the Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru on March 22-23, 2024 on the theme "Inspire Women Leadership- Accelerate Progress". The Conference witnessed presence of around 300 delegates present in-person and 4,300 delegates in virtual mode from different parts of the country. A galaxy of distinguished guests, invitees, speakers, professionals and students made the Conference a grand success.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Managing Director & CEO, HDFC Life.

CS Pradeep B. Kulkarni, Programme Coordinator and Chairman, SIRC, welcomed everyone at the Conference and introduced the Chief Guest and other dignitaries on the dais. He expressed his happiness and gratitude towards Central Council of the ICSI for providing opportunity to the SIRC for organizing the 2nd National Women's Conference at Bengaluru.

CS Dwarakanath Chennur, Programme Director and Council Member, The ICSI, welcomed all to the Conference and conveyed gratitude to Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Managing Director & CEO, HDFC Life for very kindly agreeing to be the Chief Guest. Expressing his delight on the Conference being organized at the Silicon City of India, he introduced the theme "Inspire Women Leadership- Accelerate Progress" and marked the beginning of an occasion to appreciate women for their economic, political, and social achievements. He revered the role of women leadership in every walk of life and their versatility and multitasking ability in balancing emotional and intelligence quotients efficiently. He briefed about the sub-themes of the technical sessions and concluded his address by urging everybody to prioritise developing mentorship programmes for women and fostering an inclusive work environment that values and celebrates diversity.

CS Dhananjay Shukla, Vice President, ICSI, commenced his address by quoting a text from Manusmriti "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devata, Yatraitaastu Na Pujyante Sarvaastatrafalaah Kriyaah" meaning "Where women are adored and given respect, the Gods like to stay in such places but where women are given ill-treatment, at such places no work is successful." In his address he mentioned that today women have made enviable mark in various fields and cited various examples from time immemorial wherein women created an epitome of governance, undertook leadership roles and made significant contribution for the nation. He

also shed light on the Viksit Bharat@2047 goals where Mahila (Women) is one of the pillars. He also mentioned that ICSI is the biggest example of women empowerment because female members constitute almost 50% of the total members of the ICSI. He also spoke about the theme and said that women empowerment is all about taking inspiration from all successful women all over the world.

CS B. Narasimhan, President, ICSI commenced his presidential address by welcoming the dignitaries and the delegates to the Conference. He thanked the Chief Guest for gracing the occasion amidst her busy schedule. He shared that this Conference is an occasion to empower women in all forms and to acknowledge the empowered women everywhere. He also mentioned that the theme "Invest in Women" has a vast connotation and called it as 3-fold investment – the 3E's i.e. "Economic Investment" to make women self-sustainable by way of entrepreneurship, MSMEs and Self-help groups, "Educational Investment" is about making the women future-ready and decision-ready and "Emotional Investment" to recognize and cultivate women's emotional intelligence. He shared the fact that the increased women workforce in corporate leadership would contribute to the growth story of the nation by strengthening the foundations of governance. He has also mentioned that each area of governance is incomplete without the presence of women be it in the government sector or international platforms where their diverse thoughts and perspectives would bring a newer approach. He concluded with the quote by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made."

Presidential address was followed by the releases, facilitated by CS Venkata Subbarao Kalva, Chairman, Bengaluru Chapter of ICSI at the august hands of the Chief Guest, Ms. Vibha Padalkar, along with other dignitaries present at the dais:

- Souvenir – 2nd National Women's Conference
- Flyer for 25th National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries – Block Your Diary
- Compilation of SEBI (SAST) Informal Guidance

Ms. Vibha Padalkar, Chief Guest, while delivering her address thanked the Institute for inviting her to the 2nd National Women's Conference and appreciated the profession of Company Secretaries, who as the torch bearers of Corporate Governance are always working very hard behind the scenes. She emphasized the importance of sharing the learnings and experiences of one's journey and acting as a guiding light for motivating the younger generation of women in taking up senior leadership roles.

She said it is good that many listed companies today have more women participation than mandated by SEBI and that corporates realise that women representation enriches decision making, encourages expansion and increases profitability. She also mentioned the essence of right conditioning from early age and the importance of working explicitly on the gender biases in order to support and nurture the talent of women balancing different roles in the society. She concluded by advising women to remove the blockages in their mind, seek support when required, have clear goals and self-advocate to achieve those goals.

CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, ICSI proposed the Vote of Thanks and expressed his sincere gratitude and greetings to the dignitaries, guest speakers, delegates and Team ICSI. He mentioned how ICSI is one of the leading institutions providing gender equity with over 50% of women Members, 33% of women employees and many women heading the directorates. He spoke on the conception of the ICSI National Women's Conference and said that this year's theme calls upon us to encourage women leadership for accelerating progress in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047.

FIRST TECHNICAL SESSION - ESSENTIALS FOR IMPACTFUL LEADERSHIP

Moderators: CS Aravamudhan Mohankumar and CS Venkata Ramana R., Council Members, ICSI

Panelists: Ms. Kalpana Naagaraj, Founder & Managing Director, Micron EMS Tech Pvt. Ltd.; CS S. C. Sharada, Practicing Company Secretary, S C Sharada & Associates; Ms. Yeshasvini Ramaswamy, Serial Entrepreneur & CEO, Great Place to Work India.

CS Aravamudhan Mohankumar, in his introductory remarks briefed about session theme, welcomed all the learned panelists and invited them for sharing their views and experiences with the delegates.

Ms. Kalpana Naagaraj in her address stated that leadership is essential for creating a positive change in the system and discussed how impactful leaders foster a culture of continuous learning within their organisation to drive positive change towards growth, adaptability and success. She discussed the role of Empowerment of women and broader scope of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to drive a positive impact on organisation's performance by giving an example of her company where she hired, trained and mentored fresher women who grew exponentially to lead various departments and contributed to her company's success. She said DEI efforts aim to create a workplace where individuals from diverse backgrounds feel valued, included and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and talent and urged everybody to prioritize DEI initiatives to build empowered and inclusive environment.

CS S. C. Sharada started her address by sharing her career journey and expressed delight to see majority of women students and members in Company Secretaries profession. She said that Leadership is not just a position

but a mindset, bunch of values and traits a person has and shared a quote *"Leader must have a skin of rhino, courage of soldier, compassion of mother, understanding of a friend and patience of a sage"*. She defined the traits of an Impactful Leader through the acronyms of IMPACT stating I as 'inspiration' which motivates others around us, M as 'Managing relationships' in the personal and professional life to ensure a balanced life, P as 'Personal branding' of value system, beliefs and virtues which helps in creating credibility and authenticity, A as 'Ask' which helps in taking initiatives to achieve your goals, C as 'Compassion' which leads to empathy and helps in understanding and connecting with the team members, and T as 'Transparency' which is the bedrock of governance as also of a good leader. She concluded by urging everybody to imbibe all the traits of IMPACT for becoming an impactful leader.

Ms. Yeshasvini Ramaswamy shared her career journey and cited the three biases faced by her throughout her career i.e. age, gender and country bias. She said it's time to celebrate the power of women who are confidently managing house work alongwith high technical jobs. She discussed the reason of low representation of women in leadership roles through the lens of women and highlighted the need of structural support throughout woman's lifecycle. She quoted Meryl Streep's words at Oscars *"When you want something to be said, ask a man, when you want something to be done, ask a woman"*. She also shared her excitement on the opportunities during the journey of Viksit Bharat and stressed on the need of equal participation from everybody regardless of their gender. She concluded by encouraging everybody to practice empathy for becoming an authentic leader through the formula of honesty, righteousness and vulnerability and closed on the note that every human being can inspire the next human being.

The panelists deliberated on the various issues pertaining to the theme of the session and also answered suitably to various queries which made the deliberations fruitful and interactive. Thereafter, CS Venkata Ramana R. summed up the discussions and proposed the Vote of Thanks. The session concluded with presentation of mementos to the esteemed panelists.

SECOND TECHNICAL SESSION - EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY FOR EASE OF COMPLIANCE

Moderator: CS Rajesh Tarpara, Council Member, ICSI

Panelists: Mr. Supratim Mitra, Deputy Vice President and Regional Head (South), National Securities Depository Limited; CS Gaurav Jain, Founder, LEXCOMPLY; CS Kiran Chitale, Country Head, Commercial, Innovation and Technology Legal, India - Barclays Global Service Centre Private Limited.

CS Rajesh Tarpara in his introductory remarks briefed about session theme, welcomed all the learned panelists and invited them for sharing their views and experiences with the delegates.

Mr. Supratim Mitra, begin the session by giving an outline about regulatory framework of capital markets, covering the dynamic context how the capital markets are moving from T+1 settlement to T+ 0 settlement, etc. He emphasised the power of automation in regulatory compliances to facilitate the good corporate governance. He also discussed about emerging technologies support the complexities of business organization and how automation changes the role of Company Secretaries. He further discussed about the shift in economy from financial capitalism to data capitalism and the importance of large scale digitization of data for economic growth.

CS Kiran Chitale in his address deliberated on upon Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT and described the importance of various compliance tools for Company Secretaries. He suggested the professionals to use software & technologies, the essence of continuous learning and how the Company Secretaries can become leaders with their skill-set and approach. He also suggested that the corporates & professionals should go for technological advancement and innovation in their business organization for long term growth. He further discussed about the challenges in the regulatory framework and suggested how a professional can keep pace with the regulatory changes. He concluded by saying that how law and legal system of the country may help India to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat.

CS Gaurav Jain in his opening address highlighted the importance of preparedness of the professionals specifically with reference to technology and motivated every professional to learn the art of learning. He emphasized on the increased opportunities on account of changed economic, legal and digitalized environment and stated that the role of a professional is witnessing huge & extensive change and becoming more challenging. He referred to the challenges and risks being faced by the Company Secretaries such as Artificial intelligence, Machine Learning, Compliance tools, Automation tools, etc. He also specified that technological trust is good thing, however, control is better and urged the professionals to use the application and softwares which are of good standard and quality.

The panelists deliberated on the various issues pertaining to the theme of the session and also answered suitably to various queries which made the deliberations fruitful and interactive. Thereafter, CS Rajesh Tarpara summed up the discussions and proposed the Vote of Thanks. The session concluded with presentation of mementos to the esteemed panelists.

OPEN HOUSE SESSION

An Interactive Session of the Council Members, ICSI with the members was organized at close of the first day of the Conference. CS B. Narasimhan, President, ICSI, CS, Dhananjay Shukla Vice-President, ICSI, CS Manish Gupta, CS Dwarakanath Chennur, CS Manoj Kumar Purbey, CS Mohankumar A., CS Pawan G. Chandak, CS Praveen Soni, CS Venkata Ramana R., Council Members, ICSI and CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, ICSI were present

at the session. Various queries /suggestions were raised by the members, which were suitably replied by the President, ICSI along with Council Members and Secretary, ICSI.

THIRD TECHNICAL SESSION - SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF WOMEN DIRECTORS & COMPANY SECRETARIES IN CORPORATE SPHERE

Moderators: CS Manoj Kumar Purbey and CS Praveen Soni, Council Members, ICSI

Panelists: Dr. Ashok Kumar Mishra, Council Member (Govt. Nominee), the ICSI and Ex-Technical Member, NCLAT; CS Savithri Parekh, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Reliance Industries Ltd.; CS Sujatha P. Executive Vice President and Company Secretary, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited.

CS Manoj Kumar Purbey in his introductory remarks briefed about session theme, welcomed all the learned panelists and invited them for sharing their views and experiences with the delegates.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Mishra in his opening remarks emphasized on the importance of Women in Leadership Roles in a growing economy like India and stated that everyone has to follow principles of Hard work, Devotion, Sincerity, Networking, Presentability and Skill-set throughout their life for achieving success. He stated that Professionals should be more vigilant in their role towards managing the organisations. He discussed about the representation of women in the Judiciary and mentioned that 30% of the Judicial Officers are females, 11.5% of the Judges in High Courts are female and 10% of the Judges in Supreme Courts are female. He discussed about the importance of unfaltering determination, dedication and indomitable courage of the female professionals. He also motivated every woman to take-up challenging assignments with great confidence and suggested that more women professionals should work as Judicial Officers, Insolvency professionals, etc. He also touched upon increase of number of women in the Corporate Boards in India and the skills and qualities they possess are required for effective decision making in large organisations.

CS Savithri Parekh, deliberated on the provisions under the Companies Act, 2013 about the appointment of Woman Director and the SEBI Listing Regulations related to representation of women on the Boards of Listed Companies and praised Norway, for being first country to introduce compulsory regulation for representation of women on Listed Companies. She highlighted the importance of having diversity in the Boardroom as it brings in different perspectives, approaches, thinking, and inputs which are crucial in decision making process. She stated that diversity is the most effective tool for enhancing Board performance and good corporate governance. She also appreciated France for the mandate of appointment of Woman directors not only on the Boards of Listed Companies but also for the Companies which have more than 250 employees and also for setting a minimum number of female executives in their workforce.

CS Sujatha P. in her deliberations stated that women in the society play many roles but they face issues like prejudices of the society, injustice, stereotyping, poverty, etc. She spoke of lesser number of women at top positions in the corporate and politics. She said that though progress is made but in Indian society still there is great level of gender bias and discrimination in terms of educational opportunities, decision making, financial freedom and work culture of Indian households, which has hindered progress of women. She opined that diversity and inclusion promotes innovation and creativity in a big way and also the contribution of Women Independent Director in fostering corporate excellence is very pertinent. She also said that women should be included because of their qualities but not because there is a requirement for a woman in any organisation.

The panelists deliberated on the various issues pertaining to the theme of the session and also answered suitably to various queries which made the deliberations fruitful and interactive. Thereafter, CS Praveen Soni summed up the discussions and proposed the Vote of Thanks. The session concluded with presentation of mementos to the esteemed panelists.

FOURTH TECHNICAL SESSION - IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH & WORK-LIFE HARMONY FOR WELL-BEING

Moderator: CS Pawan G. Chandak, Council Member, ICSI

Panelists: Sri Bhakta Vrinda Dasa, Spiritual Leader, Public Speaker and Mentor, ISKCON Bangalore; Dr. Vasudha M. Sharma, Co-Founder, Vivekananda Health Global; Dr. Anisha Mahendrakar, Founder & Director, The NewAge Therapist.

CS Pawan G. Chandak in his introductory remarks briefed about session theme, welcomed the learned panelists and invited them for sharing their views and experiences with the delegates.

Sri Bhakta Vrinda Dasa started his address on the purpose of life by highlighting the two most important days in life; the day we are born and the day we question why we are born. He said that life education translates to self-governance and discussed it in terms of self-mastery, self-discipline and self-control. He spoke on the role of temples as educational institutions teaching self-governance and said that *"He who controls others may be powerful, but he who controls himself is the most powerful."* He also shared that Bhagavad Gita is a symbolic representation of the battle that takes place in our minds and it teaches the philosophy of self-governance for overcoming difficulties, challenges and adversities and living a life with purpose and truth. On Women empowerment, he shared the example of how Gods are addressed by the name of Goddesses first and said Goddesses *Lakshmi*, *Saraswati* and *Parvati* control wealth, knowledge and nature as per Hindu mythology. He concluded by requesting everybody to read Bhagavad Gita to understand the principles of life for cultivating spiritual enlightenment and transforming the journey of life.

Dr. Vasudha M. Sharma started her address by sharing that spirituality is a life skill and Bhagavad Gita is a tool to learn the same. She shared that yoga helps in improving mental well-being by reducing stress, improving mood and sleep quality. While addressing on integrative medicine and the Indian traditional system of healing, she said that each person is a unique human being and requires a personalized approach. She quoted Swami Vivekananda *"You have to grow from inside out, there is no other teacher but your own soul"* and shared that each person has his own set of wellness within himself, he just has to explore it. She explained a healthy person as someone whose doshas (mind-body constitution) are all in equilibrium, the digestive fire (agni) is in a balanced state, the body's tissues (dhatus) and waste products (mala) are in balance and the mind (manas), sense organs (indriyas) and soul (atma) are in a pleasant state. She stressed that mind-body connection is very unique and requires lifestyle discipline and concluded by urging everybody to adopt a more holistic approach to enhance health and mental wellbeing.

Dr. Anisha Mahendrakar started her address by sharing that the environment in which people live can have a significant impact on their mental health. She stressed on the need to create peaceful environment where one feels calm and relaxed as opposed to a stressful environment that can lead to anxiety, depression and other mental health problems. She shared the side effects of stress and work related burnout starting with irritability when one gets triggered very easily, low tolerance level when one is filled with emotions that are not channelized properly, body pain and sleep problems. She also explained that long term effects of stress show up as more serious health problems like heart disease, diabetes, depression, anxiety disorder. She explained how mindset affects mental health and a positive mindset helps in reframing stressful situations as challenges rather than obstacles. She emphasized on the link between positive thinking and health benefits like lower levels of stress, lower rates of depression leading to better mental well-being and concluded by saying that mental health is a state of well-being present in every moment of your life and starts with your state of mind.

The panelists deliberated on the various issues pertaining to the theme of the session and also answered suitably to various queries which made the deliberations fruitful and interactive. Thereafter, CS Pawan G. Chandak summed up the discussions and proposed the Vote of Thanks. The session concluded with presentation of memento to the esteemed panelists.

VOTE OF THANKS

CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, ICSI proposed the vote of thanks paying gratitude to the esteemed Chief Guest and speakers for their kind presence and words of wisdom. He also thanked all the moderators for the fruitful deliberations in all the technical sessions. He thanked the President, ICSI, Vice-President, ICSI and all Council Members, Programme Director, Programme Coordinator, Programme Facilitator, Regional Council Members, Managing Committee Members of the Chapters, esteemed members, students and team ICSI from Headquarters, SIRC and Bengaluru Chapter for successful organization of the Conference. He also conveyed his sincere thanks to the sponsors, advertisers, anchors, volunteers and media for their support. At the end he thanked one and all for the success of the 2nd National Women's Conference.