



ॐ जयन्ती मंगला काली भद्रकाली कपालिनी।
दुर्गा क्षमा शिवा धात्री स्वाहा स्वधा नमोऽस्तुते॥



Dear Professional Colleagues,

If January is celebrated for the beginning of a new Calendar Year, the month of April takes the credit for being the perfect launch pad of a brand-new Financial Year. Even so, the month also brings to us the opportunity to celebrate the festivities of Navratri, the beginning of a new Hindu Calendar Year and with that regional new year celebrations across this culturally diverse country of ours. Amidst these celebrations, is a vibe of novelty and freshness, wherein plans are being made, goals are being set ambitions are at an all-time high.

As an Institution placing its focus on compliance and governance, the end of the previous financial year brought with it a long list of 'year-end' activities for our members, which I most surely believe, must have left them both extremely busy but professionally satisfied.

Being a professional myself and having worked through the same routines all these years, I can surely affirm the fact that the members of this Institute, being Governance Professionals have always sounded hungry for more – more avenues, more-more opportunities and definitely more capacity enhancing and knowledge enriching prospects.

That said, I felt it apt and opportune to utilize the pages of this Journal in focusing on the role of professionals in the creation of a Viksit Bharat by the 100th year of its independence – 2047 – a vision

of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and a shared dream of more than a billion Indian citizens.

VIKSIT BHARAT@2047 : ICSI & GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONALS

“सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास, सबका प्रयास”

A country of more than a billion people when preparing itself to figure among the top three nations in the world within a dedicated timespan necessitates laying the foundations of development on numerous pillars – each of which is bound to add the much-needed strength and smoothen not just the road but the journey as well.

The vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for a Viksit Bharat@2047 is a clarion call – one that each of us as a proud citizen are elated to respond. It was during this call that the four pillars of making a Viksit Bharat were meticulously laid out as Yuva (Youth), Garib (Poor), Mahila (Women) and Kisan (Farmers).

The vision to transform India to mark its presence amongst the top 3 economies by 2047 – the 100th year of its independence, encompasses varied facets of development, such as economic growth, environmental sustainability, social progress and good governance. And for an Institute functioning with a vision “to be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance”, it seems only pertinent that the roles and responsibilities of CS as Governance Professionals in the present scenario are

synergized with the expectations with the road to progress.

It is with this intent that, a mega virtual programme was organized on the same theme to enable the members and students across India to participate in the versatile deliberations for achieving vision of Viksit Bharat. I extend my gratitude towards Shri Surendra Nath Tripathi, IAS (Retd.), Director General, Indian Institute of Public Administration and Shri Gopal Krishna Agarwal, Spokesperson of BJP (Economic Affairs) to have raised such profoundly dedicated discussions on the topic, to stimulate the thought process of our Members. We hope that the Articles of this edition will also play similar role in demarcating our future line of action and guiding us on partnering with the government in achieving the dream of Viksit Bharat.

ICSI 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE : BUILDING RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

लोकाः समस्ताः सुखिनो भवन्तु
सर्वे जनः सुखिनो भवन्तु

We in India have always prayed **Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu/ Sarvae Jana Sukhina Bhavantu**. May all beings everywhere be happy and free, and may the thoughts, words, and actions of my own life contribute in some way to that happiness and to that freedom for all.

When we pray with the thought that “my thoughts, words and actions contribute to the happiness and freedom for all and we think of building a sustainable and resilient nation – the underlying thoughts for governance cannot be limited to just a single nation alone.

Our strength lies in our togetherness – if Governance is to sprawl its feet in all spheres – the actions taken for the same are to be in togetherness.

If resilience is to be built for economies – the same need to be done together. And the same holds true for sustainability.

It is for this ideology that since 2019, the world has witnessed ICSI establishing and inaugurating overseas centres – one after the other beyond national boundaries. Today, ICSI, not only proudly holds the highest membership of Company Secretaries globally, it has expanded its roots into 4 out of 7 continents through these Overseas Centres.

The year 2022 played the perfect launchpad for the International Conference, and holding to our core themes of Governance and Sustainability, we this year

together stepped into the third edition of International Conference in the Garden City of Singapore on the theme- **Building Resilient & Sustainable Economies**.

I feel extremely humbled to have shared stage with Mrs. Lim Hwee Hua, Acting Chair, IVSC, Former Minister, PM’s Office (Singapore) and H.E. Dr. Shilpak Ambule, High Commissioner of India to Singapore and for their futuristic thoughts and approach. I feel gratuitous towards all our Speakers for taking time out and sharing some of their valuable thoughts and opinions with us. They say ‘there is more than what meets the eye’; the same holds true for the efforts placed in by the good team of ICSI Overseas Centre Team of Singapore under the leadership of CS Nitish Chandan. My best wishes to all of them for their future governance-driven initiatives.

I feel equally delighted on the numbers registered for participation for it is you all who have rendered the event a perfect success; laying the groundwork for the next one in Australia...!

2ND NATIONAL WOMEN’S CONFERENCE : CELEBRATING MAHILA SHAKTI

With the clarion call of Viksit Bharat hinging on four pillars and one of them being Mahila (Women) and having celebrated the International Women’s Day in full fervour, there is a clear understanding of the fact that inevitably women power (Mahila Shakti) will definitely be playing a much bigger role in the times ahead. For a nation which has witnessed the women power to have participated in all the landmark events in the history of the nation and sometimes even shaped the course of destiny of this country, the responsibility on the female brigade of the nation to partake in this march of development is immense.

Held in the Garden City of India in Bengaluru, the 2nd National Women’s Conference of the ICSI was a celebration of this untapped power, one which is gaining and attaining full force to raise the developmental statistics by leaps and bounds. If the Government of India is launching multifarious initiatives to empower the women, both economically and socially, on the entrepreneurial front, the ICSI intends to do so on the corporate side as well.

With the theme of the event aligned with that of the United Nations for International Women’s Day 2024, i.e., Invest in **India : Accelerate Progress**, the Conference embodied the spirit to celebrate women’s achievements and honour their legacy that will inspire

the future generations to strive for excellence while rewriting the future into a more just and equitable world for all.

Inaugurated by Smt. Vibha Padalkar, Managing Director & CEO, HDFC Life and marked by the presence of some of the leading women from all spheres of life, the Conference registered a participation of 300 delegates in-person and 4,200 delegates in virtual mode which I must add was an achievement for all of us on the organizing side. My heartfelt thanks to all the speakers and participants for joining hands with us with such gusto.

May we march on the path of growth together !!!

25TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PRACTISING COMPANY SECRETARIES – BLOCK YOUR DIARY

विकल्बो वीर्यहीनो यस्स दैवमनुवर्तते।
वीरास्सम्भावित्तात्मानो न दैवं पर्युपासते॥

(Those who are timid and cowardly alone depend on destiny. The valiant with self-respect will not accept it.)

The *shloka* above sourced from Valmiki's Ramayana not just fits as motivation with the celebration of Ram Navmi around the corner, but adds immensely to the futuristic thought as well. If the National Women's Conference celebrated Nari Shakti, it also gave us the perfect platform to launch the 25th National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries which is scheduled to be held on 14th and 15th of June, 2024. Apart from encircling around the PCS Day that we all so deeply cherish, it is the choice of venue that shall be a defining moment in the history of ICSI.

Learning nuances of good governance, right conduct, ethics and morality, right in the city of where all these aspects were not just coveted but imbibed in daily life – the land of Ram Rajya – the historic city of Ayodhya is expected to guide us not through the discussions and deliberations planned but also through the richness of its own heritage and cultural expanse.

With the backdrop set, I hope to see all our members joining us for seeking blessings of Lord Ram and gaining Governance Mantras on the banks of river Sarayu...!!!

MARCH AND APRIL: THE ONE GONE BY AND THE ONE AHEAD

As the President, ICSI, it would be wrong on my part to term any of the months anything less than being eventful. Apart from the internal meetings

of the recently constituted Committees and Boards – all of whom are committed to transforming the professional scenario for the better, our international ties too, provide us with the opportunity with expanding our boundaries and creating multifarious opportunities.

If the beginning of the month of March was an opportunity of shaking hands with Mr. Ian Burger, Chairman, International Corporate Governance Network and attending the ICGN Washington DC Conference, the later part of the month saw us attending the 23rd OECD ADBI Roundtable on Capital Market and Financial Reform in Asia in Tokyo, Japan – both of which I might add were intellectually stimulating.

Back in the country, it was an absolute delight and honour to meet and greet **Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission** to discuss collaborative academic initiatives for skill enhancement & employability for the youth as also find equitable solution for our members to pursue PhD in all universities affiliated with UGC and to act as Professor in practice by delivering guest lectures in the these universities.

As far as the ongoing month is concerned, it was thought fit that amidst all the professional last-minute assignments, some relaxations may be accorded to our members for easing their side of compliance.

The Council with the intent of facilitating the members in fulfilling the mandatory requirement of CPE Credits, agreed upon extending the last date for the FY 2023-24 till May 31, 2024. In another attempt, the ICSI has also rolled out the UDIN Amnesty Scheme, 2024 and eCSiN Amnesty Scheme, 2024 till April 18, 2024.

I am sure that the members shall reap maximum benefits of all these relaxations and make good of all the compliances at their end.

If the past has blessed us with some memorable events, the future ahead holds in its garb the hope for more – so much more – all with the sole expectation – that we play our roles striving for excellence...!

Happy reading !!!

Yours Sincerely



CS B. Narasimhan

President, ICSI