



“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing, but of reflection.”

- Winston Churchill



Dear Professional Colleagues,

Even though December is the last month of the year, yet it is this very month that is seen as the harbinger of hope, joy, optimism, shared happiness and even more importantly as a mark of memorable endings and beautiful beginnings. As the fervour of Christmas engulfs us all, accompanying the full-fledged onset of winters, there is still left aplenty to accomplish before the year ends.

If the students have their Examinations to conquer, we as members and as an Institute have our responsibilities and roles well chalked out. But first things first, allow me to share the wondrous and momentous occasions that made our month gone by worthwhile...

ICSI CONVOCATIONS : SHARING TIME AND SPACE WITH NEW ENTRANTS – ONE REGION AT A TIME

One of the perks that come with the Office of the President is that you are a part of the journey of each and every new entrant into the profession throughout the year. It is through the Convocation ceremonies that we all so deeply revere that a chance is accorded to share the glorious moment of new members with them and their families.

The one thing that the two sets of Bi-annual Convocations, across years, have in common is the palpable zeal, the exhilaration, the joy of beginning a new phase of life but more than all of this is the satisfaction of finally being able to serve the nation.

The first in the series of the second bi-annual convocation at New Delhi's historic Siri Fort Auditorium was no different. This time as I stood on the podium to address the members stepping into the profession, the smiles of more than 800 members and their families practically lit up the entire auditorium space.

Not only I, but the entire hall was delighted in the presence of Shri Mithilesh Kumar Tiwari, Hon'ble Member, Legislative Assembly, Bihar, and Shri Anurag Bakshi, IRS (Retd), Former Chairman, Haryana Export Promotion Council, Government of Haryana, who graced the ICSI Convocation 2025 of the Northern Region. Their wisdom, pearls of knowledge, experiences shared from their own life, the anecdotes and couplets; each word came straight from the heart and touched the minds and hearts of all present.

As I congratulate the 'new entrants' from the Northern Region and fix in my calendar the dates for other regions, I am absolutely sure that each Convocation Ceremony will bring each one of us and each one of the participating members, moments of sheer delight and immense memorabilia.

The month ahead is surely filled with tremendous joy and delight...!

JURY MEETING : SIEVING THE BEST – CREATING LEGACY

अस्माकं कार्याणि अस्मान्सावधीकरिष्यन्ति

(That is Only actions can define us.)

As much as the ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance Awards are themselves,

the Jury meeting preceding the same is nothing short of a celebration in itself. With the tycoons of the Industry, the doyens of academia coming together within the bounds of a single room, and under the stable steering of Former Chief Justice of India, the meeting of the Jury for these Awards becomes a historic moment for all present. The deliberations define the expectations from the corporates of the future and redefine the responsibilities of the Governance Professionals. The companies who have made their way to this table lay the ground work for stipulating the best practices. And most importantly as much as these Awards test the corporates participating, they are a greater test of our own Company Secretaries shaping the governance frameworks of these entities.

We, at the ICSI, feel deeply humbled to have the privilege of Dr. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, Hon'ble Former Chief Justice of India, chairing the Jury Meeting of 25th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance. Call it his years of experience with decision making, or his commitment to the very cause of governance, but it was quite honouring for us to witness him find time, days prior to the Jury meeting, and join us at the ICSI Headquarters to understand the very processes of the Awards, so as to have a well-informed stance and a steadfast decision.

With the decisions made and the awardees selected, as much as it is difficult for me to stay tight-lipped out of sheer excitement, I with my Team, am putting in our enthusiasm and our energies into making the Award Ceremony a memorable one.

To celebrations that lie ahead !!!

DECEMBER FOR STUDENTS : TESTING, TRYING AND LIFE ALTERING

If there are bi-annual convocations, how can we forget that the Examination Sessions are bi-annual too. And it is these Examinations that have brought each one of the members where we stand today. So, when we see the younger generation walking from one end of the room to the other in a hope to cram the entire study material, the memories turn in refreshed – and a smile passes by. With the weather wanting us to snuggle in our blankets, the profession and the nation expects otherwise.

To each of you appearing, my best wishes...

And to each one of you standing with those appearing, my hopes that you will be extending

every help and guidance possible, soothe wrecking nerves and offer words of advice whenever needed.

Remember, the exams are not yours alone... Let us all sail through these with flying colours...!

ICSI STUDENT AMNESTY SCHEME : BRINGING THEM BACK

Another initiative that must be shared through this message is the launch of a unique yet impactful initiative – the ICSI Student Amnesty Scheme.

Many of you, might have friends or come across people who would casually acknowledge as to how they got admitted to the CS Course but could not see it through. So, what we have for them, is a brilliant opportunity to join the ICSI family – to Rejoin; Restart; Rebuild their CS Journey...

Further details of the scheme can be readily and easily accessed at the ICSI website. The leaflet is also placed elsewhere in this edition for you to share it forward and spread the word...!

NEW INITIATIVES : TRANSFORMING THE 'NEW ENTRANTS' OF CS COURSE

"Small changes eventually add up to huge results."

For us at ICSI, it has always been immensely significant as to what are we feeding to the brains of the young minds joining the Course of Company Secretaryship. And, it is equally imperative that their personas are built in such a manner that they come across as the right fit for the KMP roles that they are to take on in the future. For students aspiring to be future Board members, it requires the polishing of communication skills and honing a personality worthy for a global market.

Taking a two-pronged approach, where on one hand, the format of the online objective CSEET (the CS Executive Entrance Test) has been modified into a more subjective mode, and a One-day Student Induction Programme introduced; on the other hand, a new format of CLDP has been introduced which is completely Residential and aims to focus entirely on the aspects of overall Personality Development of our students.

The intent, by and large, of all these initiatives is to bridge any gap that may exist in the skill set of the future Governance Professionals and the needs and expectations of the corporates they are being made ready to serve. Another understanding is that our

professionals are a representative of the nation's governance culture on a global platform and as the nation aspires to be one of the Superpowers, the impression on the governance front should also be laced with perfection...

Let us all serve the nation better !!!

YUVOTSAV 2026 : THE FUN BELLS RING

Once our students are done with the cackling sound of your fingers from filling in the answer sheets, it is time to let your hair down and keep the books aside for a while.

The celebration of the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is a perfect opportunity for us as Team ICSI to connect with the youngest members of the family, have a peep into their hidden talents and connect with at a deeper level – going beyond the bounds of books, examination, training, so on and so forth...

I am extremely delighted to share that while up until last year, the Yuvotsav celebrations were limited to one city of the country – this year the plans have altered slightly.

Given your overwhelming response and participation, the ICSI has planned to host the Yuvotsav across all Regions and Chapters of ICSI with the Mega event at Chennai – all during the 11th and 12th of January, 2026.

For those celebrating it in their city, I hope you have picked up your poems, songs, dance and acts; and for those who have registered for the Mega Event, we hope that you have your tickets ready and bags packed to join us in the city that owns the largest beach of the country, Chennai.

It goes without saying that this event is going to be the perfect moment for you to meet the long-lost ones and make new friends, share your talents, and have boundless fun with all of us.

Your talents and their exploration await you !!!

MEETINGS AND GREETINGS : THE JOY THAT CANNOT BE PUT INTO WORDS

A while ago as I sat to enlist the happenings of the month, the list of meetings conducted with various dignitaries, the handshakes and the discussions, all made my heart both feel humbled and swell with

pride at the same time. The pictures that are shared may not even be able to do complete justice to these emotions. I feel immense gratitude towards Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Goa; Shri Sanjay Seth, Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence; Shri Manoj Tiwari, Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha; Shri Giridhari Yadav, Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha and Former Minister for Law and Justice; Shri Sanjay Jaiswal, Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha; Shri Devesh Chandra Thakur, Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha; Shri Deepak Prakash, Hon'ble Member, Rajya Sabha, Co-In-charge, BJP Bihar & Ex-State President, BJP Jharkhand for taking time out of their busy routines and sharing moments with us and during those moments, their offering their opinions, views, guidance and assurance of assistance.

With this I am equally delighted and honoured to share the visit extended to us by Ms. Jen Sisson, CEO, ICGN and her Team at the ICSI Headquarters, New Delhi to deliberate upon the global governance scenarios.

The next time I sit to pen this message, the year would have turned a new leaf, there would be moments which I would be eagerly waiting to share, some new initiatives launched, a few steps taken forward...

To name a few, the ICSI Capital Markets Week, the ICSI Board Mentorship Programme, will be keeping our calendars packed and our hearts full.

Needless to say, whatever we do, we will be moving forward. And I would expect each one of you to have taken a few steps ahead as well...

Just as the season is one of hope and joy, I wish that your days are filled with copious amounts of optimism and dedicated action...

Until then,

Merry Christmas !!!

Yours Sincerely

CS Dhananjay Shukla
President, ICSI