



आ जागृविर्विप्र ऋता मतीनाम्

The intelligent learned is wakeful towards true knowledge



Dear Professional Colleagues,

Life has its own way of surprising us when we least expect it to. Each achievement, each moment of success adds further grit to this thought. But when you truly look deeper, the realization dawns – that the fruits reaped today are the result of the seeds sown and saplings planted long ago – and that thought itself brings with it, immense humility and reverence for those who have been through the road before us.

Each event of the month gone by had its way of telling us as to how proud we must feel for being part of the legacy. If the Institute of Company Secretaries of India is 55 years strong, our commitment to take it forward is no less either. And it feels great beyond words when we get an opportunity to tell the world as to what we are capable of and to hear from them their appreciation, their commendations and their expectations.

As I mention appreciation, I feel extremely delighted to share the news of an Article recently published on the ‘Role of Company Secretary and Corporate

Governance’ in the monthly newsletter of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The fine detailing of the various roles played and responsibilities undertaken by the Governance Professionals has given the profession greater impetus and to us moments of pride. To us it was a portrayal of the fact that “no good deed goes unrewarded”. At the same time, the appreciation has revealed to us a vast sea of expectations wherein we Company Secretaries in our roles as Governance Professionals are envisioned to guide, handhold, and steer the Indian Corporate on the growth trajectory with far greater accountability, transparency and integrity.

The month gone by has given us its fair share of moments which I am more than elated to let you in on :

JURY MEETING 2023 : ANOTHER YEAR OF REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Reiterating the point from where I had begun, the moments of success cherished are not mere momentary achievements but a result of dedication, commitment and long drawn efforts of a lot many people.

If the Jury meeting of the ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance can be treasured as our accomplishment, the months of efforts of not just Team ICSI but a lot many other people is, what fills my heart with both pride to have the silent support of so many partners and gratitude towards each one of them.

Even though for the entire nation the ball was set rolling in the month of July with the opening of applications but for us it had truly began the day. We had made the first call to the Chairmen and members of Expert Groups and heard voices on the other end filled with the happiness to help...! If during the course of the Jury Meeting we were able to proudly quote the number of companies participating and their heightened interests in these Awards, it was because the corporates wanted to share with us how well they had performed on the governance front.

If the corporates have spent their months post filling in of questionnaires in great anticipation, ours have been filled with longer days and weekends invested in their evaluation. I cannot help but commend the dedicated efforts of TEAM ICSI - of the various departments coming together and pursuing this expansive activity with utmost assiduity- all of which led us to the memorable day of Jury meeting.

No words of gratitude would compare to the surge of emotions felt as we deliberated the significant efforts of the Hon'ble Justice Mr. Tirath Singh Thakur, Former Chief Justice of India, in steering the Meeting with utmost practicality and thorough understanding of our procedures and practices. I am equally thankful to all the members of the Jury hailing from varied backgrounds – from the Industry, Academia and Regulatory Authorities; for coming together at our table and guiding our way into adding another momentous page in our history.

And as I extend my heartiest thanks towards our Expert Group Members, our Field Visitors and Call makers to the Independent Directors, I feel indebted towards all the Past Presidents and the Teams who would have supported them in carrying this legacy on for 23 years.

I am more than hopeful that these Awards shall continue to play their designated roles of promoting

excellence in governance in not just years or decades but centuries to follow...!!!

ICSI-CCGRT KOLKATA : ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CAP

The name CCGRT or Centre for Corporate Governance, Research and Training comes with a lot of weight - not just in the manner of what it stands for but for the very purposes it is intended for. This year as the ICSI celebrated the completion of 24 years of the first CCGRT established by the ICSI in the year 1999 at Navi Mumbai, and 6 years of the second one established in the heart of the tech-city Hyderabad, we realised that the year 2023 had become all the more special with the completion of construction of the ICSI CCGRT at the eastern edge of the ICSI's national presence in Kolkata.

What began in 2020 was not just a dream of the then Council of which I was a part of but a cherished goal and aim for our dear friend and then Central Council Member, CS Deepak Kumar Khaitan. While his soul departed, and the loss is still grieved for till date, it is a matter of great pride for me to have had this opportunity of playing some part in making his dream come true. Although we have dedicated an Auditorium in the new compound to his name, his visions and values for the Institute and his commitment shall always be a part of our thoughts and lead our way.

I feel humbled to acknowledge the presence of Shri C. V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal for making time out of his pressing commitments and inaugurating the ICSI-CCGRT at Kolkata on December 06, 2023. His appreciation and lauding surely boosted our morales and added vigour in our step.

If the vision of the ICSI is “to be a leader in promoting good corporate governance”, the accomplishment of the same lies in constant self-development - one which is possible only by way of continuous learning, knowledge attainment and skill upgradation - all of which are the ultimate goals of the CCGRT.

I am sure that these Centres will go a long way in shaping the governance culture of the nation and even steer global governance scenarios in ways unfathomable - signifying our thought of वसुधैव कुटुंबकम्।

ICSI CONVOCATIONS : सर्व सम्भाव्यते त्वयि

The above Sanskrit verse, sourced from the Adi Parva of Mahabharata, is a reminder of the immense potential of the youth of this nation – one that we relish in each meeting with our students and young members – but more than that one which is visible each time without fail at the ICSI Convocations held in different parts of the nation.

This time as we cojoined the Inauguration Ceremony of the ICSI-CCGRT at Kolkata with the bi-annual convocation of Eastern Region – the joy and elation surpassed words and sentences. The presence of Shri C. V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal to guide the members, to share his expectations from our young members of the brigade and to share his personal experiences made the entire ceremony light hearted and yet one fostering life-long bonding.

It was not only the hoards of pictures and selfies clicked which is going to make its way into our phone galleries and memories but also the pledge taken together which shall guide our conduct in our professional journey.

The above verse meaning “You can do anything” is what I would want each of our member to take away as they begin their professional journeys – knowing that no task is impossible and no goal too big or unattainable. We can achieve what we aspire and if we can – might as well aspire to be the best...!

ICSI GLOBAL CONNECT : DUBAI CALLS AGAIN

Friends, they say “Once the sand of Dubai has settled on your shoulders... you can never shake it off.” The city takes pride in having the first overseas Examination Centre of ICSI; of having the first Overseas Centre of ICSI, of playing the perfect host to the first International Conference of ICSI Overseas Centre; but more than that – the city takes pride – in calling us again, and again and again...

And this month, Dubai chose to call us for the ICGN - Hawkamah Dubai Conference. The Conference which was being hosted immediately before the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), covered topics related to environmental

and social issues, all from the overarching lens of promoting good governance practices. And where deliberations are raised on good governance, the presence of ICSI is bound to be felt. The moment felt equally opportune to meet with our members at ICSI Middle East (DIFC) NPIO wherein, a Half Day Event was organised to share further instances of collaboration and working together.

The moments have indeed filled us with hope for a far deeper global presence and expansive outlook in the days to follow.

To many more avenues of growth together...!

REMEMBERING THE LOST PILLARS : CS B. S. DORAISWAMY

An institution with a legacy of 55 years finds strength in the efforts placed in cementing its foundations by a lot of hands. Each President, each person who has been on this Chair, in this Office before me has placed in the best of efforts and dedicated a part of his life in the development of both the institution and the profession and it pains to lose any member of the fraternity.

One such name, CS B. S. Doraiswamy, Former President of the ICSI, had taken to the Chair in the year 1988 – when many of us had no clue that we would one day be a part of this illustrious profession.

As we pay our homage to his departed soul, his visions will be cherished and his contributions honoured. We hope to live up to the expectations of all those before us.

On that note, as we gear up to meet each other in a new year with the next edition, I expect each one of my members and students to have their new year resolutions – and pursue them with grit and resilience...

Happy reading !!!

Yours Sincerely



CS Manish Gupta
President, ICSI