EDITORIAL

The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 01 July, 2017 has marked one of the most significant tax reforms in India. Within less than a decade since its implementation, GST has matured from a compliance-centric regime into a dynamic framework powered by technology -driven compliance and revenue management framework. While the initial focus was creating a unified national market and eliminate cascading taxes, the current focus surrounding revenue buoyancy, compliance efficiency, litigation management and economic competitiveness influences business strategy across sectors, supply chains, technology adoption, and regulatory management. In this changing environment, unprecedented opportunities have emerged for Company Secretaries, the 'governance experts', to contribute beyond traditional compliance functions.

The theme of this month's Chartered Secretary Journal **'Opportunities in GST & Indirect Taxes'** revolves around how GST has transformed taxation into a technology-driven and continuously monitored ecosystem and how the Businesses are increasingly seeking CS Professionals who can interpret legal provisions, implement robust compliance systems, mitigate tax risks, and engage constructively with tax authorities. It is pertinent to note that GST has increasingly intersected with these domains and Boardrooms today expect comprehensive risk oversight, including tax governance. The CS Professionals are uniquely positioned to assist organizations in establishing robust internal controls, monitoring compliance frameworks, and ensuring accountability mechanisms.

The articles **'India's GST 2.0: From Compliance Control to Trust-Based Digital Tax Governance for Viksit Bharat 2047', 'Integration of E-Invoicing and E-Way Bill Systems: A Paradigm Shift in Combating Tax Evasion under GST', 'Digital Transformation in GST: The Efficacy of AI-Driven Invoice Matching, Digital Audits and the Reduction of Classification Disputes'** and **'Taxing Cross-Border E-Commerce and Digital Streaming Platforms: Challenges Impending**' collectively bring out a compelling view on the transformative role of technology in reshaping India's GST ecosystem. They highlight the shift from a compliance-centric framework to a transparent, intelligence-driven and trust-based tax administration. Articles on '**Opportunities in GST & Indirect Taxes: Digital Transformation in GST — AI-Driven Invoice Matching, Faceless Audit and the Decline of Classification Disputes', 'GST 2.0: Navigating AI-Driven Compliance, Faceless Audits, and the Techno-Legal Frontier,' 'India's Indirect Tax Revolution: GST Development, GST 2.0 and the Road to Viksit Bharat 2047**' and **'GST's Digital Turn: AI-led invoice Matching, Faceless Scrutiny and the Future of Indirect Tax Governance in India',** present a forward-looking vision of GST 2.0 as a key pillar in India's journey towards efficient governance, ease of doing business and the realization of the *Viksit Bharat 2047* vision. The article '**Sunset of Anti-Profiteering Rules under GST: Impact on Business Price Adjustments**' emphasizes the significance of the transition from the anti-profiteering regime to a more mature and market-oriented GST framework. While the article in the Global Connect Section **'USA's Exit from Climate Agreements and Its Impact on ESG Governance: A Global and Indian Perspective'** analyses how the withdrawal of a major economy from global climate commitments can influence corporate sustainability strategies, another article published in the Global Connect Section **'Variable Capital Companies in India's IFSC: Architecture, Governance and the Road Ahead: An Analysis of the Draft IFSCA (Amendment) Bill, 2026'** provides an in-depth view of how the introduction of VCCs can enhance the attractiveness of GIFT IFSC for global funds, foster innovation in financial products, strengthen India's position in international financial markets, and contribute to the development of a robust and future-ready financial ecosystem. The research article **'Decriminalisation of Corporate Offences under the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Reform or Liability Relocation?'** presents a research overview on the evolving approach of corporate regulation towards facilitating ease of doing business while maintaining accountability and good governance standards. Article on **'India's Social Stock Exchange: Learning from Global Experiences to Build a Sustainable Impact Investment Ecosystem'** highlights the SSE's role in bridging the financing gap for social sector organizations, promoting accountable impact investing, and creating a robust ecosystem that aligns financial returns with social outcomes. An eye-opening article on **'Audit Committee's expanding Role in Governance**' highlights how the role of Audit Committees has evolved beyond traditional financial oversight to encompass risk management, internal controls, regulatory compliance, ESG reporting, cyber-risk monitoring and overall ethical governance.

I invite my esteemed professional colleagues, academicians, researchers and students to explore this enriching issue on "Opportunities in GST and Indirect Taxes" and to actively reflect on the emerging challenges and opportunities in GST & indirect taxation and contribute comprehensibly to the ongoing discourse on building a robust governance framework for India.

Happy Reading!

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