

EDITORIAL

In today's rapidly evolving corporate landscape, the role of Practising Company Secretaries (PCS) is undergoing a profound transformation. No longer confined to compliance and secretarial functions, PCS professionals are now emerging as strategic advisors, governance specialists, and champions of digital transformation. The advent of new tools and techniques is redefining how PCS deliver value to businesses, regulators, and stakeholders.

The integration of AI-driven compliance software, e-governance portals, and workflow automation tools has streamlined routine filings, secretarial audits, and board processes. These platforms not only reduce manual errors but also enhance transparency and accountability, qualities that are indispensable in corporate governance.

With the intent to acknowledge and recognise the significant contribution made by members in expanding the practicing side of CS profession, every year, the Institute observes June 15 as PCS Day. On this occasion, I congratulate practicing members and invite them to actively participate in the upcoming 27th National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries to be held on June 13-14, 2026, at Pune on the theme, "Company Secretaries as Leaders: AI, ESG & Stewardship."

The theme for this month's Chartered Secretary Journal "**Emerging Tools and Techniques for PCS**" aptly highlights how PCS Professionals are increasingly leveraging AI-driven Technologies to monitor compliance trends, assess governance risks, and provide predictive insights. By integrating these advanced tools into their practice, PCS are strengthening their ability to guide boards with foresight.

The articles featured in this edition affirm that embracing emerging tools and techniques is not merely enhancing efficiency; it is also elevating the stature of PCS as indispensable partners in corporate growth and governance.

The Article on "**The Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 - Re-enactment of Section 153 of the Companies Act, 1956: Companies Not to enter Trusts in Register of Members**" brings insights on the Corporate Laws (Amendment Bill) 2026 and throws light on the proposed amendment in Section 88 of the Companies Act, 2013 which seeks to reintroduce the essence of Section 153 of the Companies Act, 1956. The Articles on "**Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023: Compliance Architecture and Emerging Professional Implications**", "**Cybersecurity and Data Protection Compliance: The Practising Company Secretary as the Vanguard of Corporate Cyber Governance**" and "**DPDP Rules 2025 and the Company Secretary as Data Governance Officer: Navigating India's New Data Protection Landscape**" delve on how the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023 establishes India's first unified framework for digital privacy, requiring organizations to adopt consent-centric data practices, robust compliance systems, and governance safeguards and how it reshapes professional roles across legal, compliance, IT security, and corporate governance. The Articles on "**Forensic Secretarial Audit: When Compliance Becomes Detection**" and "**Forensic Secretarial Audit and Fraud Detection: Emerging Tools and Techniques for Practising Company Secretaries**" shed light on how Secretarial Audits are evolving beyond routine compliance checks into a more investigative, forensic discipline. The Article "**Role of Practising Company Secretaries in Startup and Tech Ecosystems: From Entity Formation to Strategic Exit**" highlights how Company Secretaries are not just compliance officers but strategic partners who guide Startups through their entire lifecycle. A thought provoking article "**From Custodian to Architect: Emerging Digital Tools, Analytical Models and the Transformation of Practising Company Secretaries' Work in India**" enlightens readers on how the profession of Company Secretaries is undergoing a paradigm shift. It emphasizes that Company Secretaries are evolving into architects of governance systems, leveraging digital tools and analytical models. The Articles on "**Cloud-Based Compliance and Documentation Systems: A Strategic Imperative for the Modern Practising Company Secretary in India's Evolving Regulatory Ecosystem**" and "**Cloud-Based Compliance and Documentation: The Company Secretary's Governance Framework in the Digital Age**" provide in depth view on how digital transformation through cloud platforms is redefining the compliance function for Company Secretaries. Invigorating Articles, "**From Quill to Query: Reinventing the Practising Company Secretary in the Age of AI and Automation - A White Paper for the Indian PCS Community**" and "**Voice of the PCS: What Practising Company Secretaries Really Need from Technology and How AI is Beginning to Answer?**", bring forth a compelling vision of how technology is transforming the very identity of Company Secretaries as digitally empowered, AI-driven governance strategists, redefining their role in corporate ecosystems.

I invite my fellow professionals through these enlightening viewpoints to empower themselves with tools and emerging technologies, while being guided by global best practices and driven by foresight.

Happy Reading !

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