

Articles Part - I

38 From Quill to Query: Reinventing the Practicing Company Secretary in the Age of AI and Automation - A White Paper for the Indian PCS Community**CS Shalini Iyengar**

The article explains how the work of the Practicing Company Secretary, properly understood, is not the document — it is the assurance behind the document. AI changes the cost of the document. It cannot, and will not, change the assurance.

45 Voice of the PCS: What Practicing Company Secretaries Really Need from Technology and How AI is Beginning to Answer?**CS Srividhya Sampath**

The article examines how Artificial Intelligence and emerging no-code tools are beginning to address these gaps, not as distant promises but as accessible, deployable solutions available today.

50 Role of Practicing Company Secretaries in Startup and Tech Ecosystems: From Entity Formation to Strategic Exit**CS Sudesh Balecha (Modi)**

The article highlights that beneath this narrative of disruption and growth lies a compliance and governance challenge that receives far less attention than the funding rounds and valuations dominating the discourse. A startup raising its Series A round must simultaneously navigate the Companies Act, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, the Income Tax Act, the DPIIT Startup India framework, SEBI regulations for future public market access, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and an increasingly demanding data protection regime under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

57 Forensic Secretarial Audit and Fraud Detection: Emerging Tools and Techniques for Practicing Company Secretaries**Dr. J. Madegowda**

This article examines the conceptual foundations of FSA, the nature of corporate fraud and governance vulnerabilities, and the growing role of Practicing Company Secretaries in preventive governance and forensic compliance assurance.

63 Forensic Secretarial Audit: When Compliance Becomes Detection**CS Raman Narasimhan**

This article discusses that the answer to fill the gap between Certification and Detection is not merely process improvement. It is a fundamental reconception of what secretarial audit is for. The forensic dimension of secretarial audit — its capacity to detect, not merely certify — must be built into the methodology, not left to chance. And for that to happen, both the practising CS conducting the audit and the in-house CS whose work is being audited must be prepared, motivated, and equipped in ways that current professional standards do not demand of either.

70 Cybersecurity and Data Protection Compliance: The Practicing Company Secretary as the Vanguard of Corporate Cyber Governance**CS Rajiv Malik**

The article emphasises that Corporate Governance has traditionally been associated with financial discipline, statutory compliance, board processes, and ethical decision-making. However, in today's digital economy, another dimension has silently entered the boardroom: cybersecurity and data protection governance. This transformation has significantly altered the expectations from governance professionals, including the Practicing Company Secretary (PCS).

77 From Custodian to Architect: Emerging Digital Tools, Analytical Models and the Transformation of Practicing Company Secretaries' Work in India**CS Ishan Medhekar**

The article gives particular attention to interactive analytical dashboards and compliance visualisation models as emerging instruments for client advisory, governance diagnostics, and regulatory communication, deliberating that the PCS who can translate a complex market surveillance anomaly or a compliance obligation matrix into a dynamic visual model for a Board is delivering a categorically different quality of professional service.

83 DPDP Rules 2025 and the Company Secretary as Data Governance Officer: Navigating India's New Data Protection Landscape

CS Sahiba Khan

The article brings to light how the DPDP framework with its consent architecture, breach notification obligations, board-level accountability requirements, and penalty regime that can reach ₹250 crore per violation places data protection squarely within the domain of corporate governance, and corporate governance is, by training, profession, and statute, the domain of the Company Secretary.

88 Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023: Compliance Architecture and Emerging Professional Implications

Dr. Sajoy P.B. and Dr. Ajoy P.B.

This article provides a bird's-eye view of the new legal framework being set up under the DPDP Act, 2023. The transitional period provides all stakeholders with sufficient time to adapt themselves to the new liability regime that will eventually come into force. The article highlights the provisions relating to the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) have been enforced with effect from 13.11.2025.

91 Cloud-Based Compliance and Documentation: The Company Secretary's Governance Framework in the Digital Age

CS Amrit

The article analyses the impact of evolving technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, and API-based ecosystems in reshaping the compliance functions which is also discussed along with the role of the in-house governance experts i.e. the Company Secretaries.

Articles Part - II

95 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

CS (Dr.) K. R. Chandratre

The article discusses about the proposed amendment in Section 88 of the Companies Act, 2013 through Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 pertaining to re-enactment of context of Section 153 of the Companies Act, 1956 where the companies were prohibited from entering Trusts in the Register of Members and this provision was not included in the Companies Act, 2013. Now, Clause 31 of Bill seeks to insert new sub-section in Section 88 to provide that no notice of any trust (whether express, implied or constructive), shall be entered in the register of members or debenture holders.

Research Corner P-103

104 Cloud-Based Compliance and Documentation Systems: A Strategic Imperative for the Modern Practising Company Secretary in India's Evolving Regulatory Ecosystem

CS (Dr.) R. Ravichandran and N. Rakesh

The article underlines the technology roadmap to 2033 also confirms that today's cloud adoption will enable practitioners to take cloud, AI, blockchain, and green computing capabilities without having to reinvent the architecture. Over the years and successive regulatory periods, the role of Company Secretary has shown its ability to change from a legal compliance officer to an advisor to the Board.

Legal World P-115

- **LMJ 06:06:2026** We, therefore, find no substance in the submission of learned counsel for the appellants that the valuer had committed a mistake in applying the principles approved by this Court in Hindustan Lever Employees Union (supra). [SC]
- **LW 41:06:2026** Thus, in the facts and circumstances of the present case, we find that in the present Section 9 proceedings, except for accounts reconciliation for which the correspondence was going on between the two parties, there is no pre-existing dispute between them. [NCLAT]
- **LW 42:06:2026** The cash collateral which was part of security could have very well be adjusted by the Financial Creditor towards the payment of any outstanding dues but recoupment from cash collateral cannot lead to conclusion that no default was committed on the relevant date. [NCLAT]

- **LW 43:06:2026** Given the facts obtaining presently, we are of the firm view that this was an eminently fit case for lifting the corporate veil, as EIL was the main driving force in the development of the projects and in payment of GNIDA's dues. The subsidiary companies were only a front. [SC]
- **LW 44:06:2026** The Commission is of the view that a prima facie case of contravention under Section 3(4)(b) read with Section 3(1) of the Act is made out against the OPs and directs the Director General ('DG') to cause an investigation into the matter in relation to the alleged conduct. [CCI]
- **LW 45:06:2026** Thus, the Commission is of the view that there was no evidence of bias toward Infosys and of any exclusive dealing agreement or refusal to deal. Hence, there is no violation of Section 3(4)(b) and Section 3(4)(d) of the Act. [CCI]
- **LW 46:06:2026** The DJU makes the Collaborator a veritable party to the contract who is also entitled to invoke the arbitration clause as available in the contract between the Contractor and the Employer in which the DJU executed by the Collaborator and the Contractor, in favour of the Employer is an inextricable part. [SC]
- **LW 47:06:2026** The consideration has to be commercial. The friendship cannot be a consideration to form a contract. Thus, if no contract has been formed, then the transaction cannot be legally enforced and it does not come under the definition of legally enforceable debt and the jurisdiction of Section 138 of N.I Act is not applicable. [JHK]
- **LW 48:06:2026** Therefore, in light of the settled legal position, the applicant, not being a signatory to the cheques, cannot be held liable for the offence under Section 138 of the N.I. Act. [ALL]

From The Government P-123

- The Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2026
- Notification of Amendments
- What procedure is to be followed in case of transfer of interest of a member in a company not having share capital?
- Extension of Registration Deadline MCA21 NextGen Industry Consultation Workshop
- Revision of Monthly Cumulative Report (MCR) Format
- Status of SPVs post-conclusion or termination of Concession Agreement
- Permitted use of fresh borrowings for InvITs where Net Borrowings exceeds forty-nine percent of the value of InvIT assets
- Norms for sharing and usage of price data for educational purposes
- Discontinuation of Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform
- 'Significant Indices' under SEBI (Index Providers) Regulations, 2024
- Advisory on Emerging Advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for Vulnerability Detection (like Mythos)
- Reserve Bank of India (Rural Co-operative Banks - Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Urban Co-operative Banks - Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Implementation of Section 51A of UAPA, 1967: Updates to UNSC's 1267/ 1989 ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List: Removal of 7 Entries
- Reserve Bank of India (Local Area Banks – Financial Statements: Presentation and Disclosures) Third Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Financial Statements: Presentation and Disclosures) Sixth Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Sixth Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Regional Rural Banks - Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Rural Co-operative Banks – Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Urban Co-operative Banks – Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Local Area Banks - Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Payments Banks - Classification, Valuation, and Operation of Investment Portfolio) Amendment Directions, 2026
- Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings
- Reserve Bank of India (Payments Banks - Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Second Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Small Finance Banks - Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Fourth Amendment Directions, 2026
- Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Fifth Amendment Directions, 2026
- Issuance of Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026
- Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026