



यथैधांसि समिद्धोऽग्निर्भस्मसात्कुरुतेऽर्जुन।
ज्ञानाग्निः सर्वकर्माणि भस्मसात्कुरुते तथा॥

*As a kindled fire reduces wood to ashes, O Arjun, so does the fire of knowledge burn to ashes all reactions from material activities.
Let that (auspicious) Agni instigate us (towards prosperity and well-being).
- Shrimad Bhagavad Gita 4.37*



Dear Professional Colleagues,

The beginning of the month of March had us all drenched from head to toes in all hues and shades. Be it friends or family, the seldom seen neighbours or the daily accompanying co-workers, the secluded elderlies or phone addicted kids – the festival of Holi brought us together – making us keep our professional responsibilities aside, and letting our hair down without the fear of ending up being one of the most tired but happy selves the next day.

Each festival comes with its story of victory of good over evil – even while the form of celebration is inherently different. Amidst all celebrations, this festival too, embodies the same thought of righteousness, respect and equality. And I believe that each one of us will imbibe the same traits in our conduct as well.

On that note, wishing all of you and your loved ones a fun and frolic filled festival of colours...!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – HONOURING CREATORS, CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD

अतुलं तत्र तत्तेजः सर्वदेवशरीरजम्।
एकस्थं तदभून्नारी व्यासलोकत्रयं त्विषा॥

The incomparable radiance that was born from all gods and pervaded the 3 worlds, came to one place and took the form of a woman.

- Devimahātmyam 2.13

Another major event that becomes the prime defining factor of this month is the International Women's Day – the celebration of Womanpower, of Empowerment, of partnered journeys and shared successes.

On a personal note, I could never understand the significance of this day. The women in my family, the teachers, each of them have been a guiding light in themselves – financially prudent, emotionally balanced and intellectually bestowed. Equality and equanimity just flowed like the natural course of a river. While being surrounded by headstrong and opinionated women kept me grounded, the strong workforce that became a part of my Team and even now in ICSI made this thought stronger.

But with age, came the realization that there was a huge segment that was in dire need of empowerment – and in that realization was added the thought that more than the women, the girls and the feminine segment of the society, it was the men, the boys who needed real empowerment – empowerment of thoughts, ideologies and opinions, about the real meaning of masculinity and the significance of mutual respect and a sensitized approach in an evolving ecosystem.

The Indian culture and heritage is filled with stories of women who in their pure femineity portrayed intellect, courage, strength and the most supreme forms of human self – ones that became turning points in history. Hailing from a nation which does not merely respect but reverses the 'Shakti' element, it is imperative

that when we focus on becoming a Viksit Bharat – the journey is taken forward in all cohesiveness – leaving no one behind.

Be it holding spaces in Parliamentary positions or the creation of dedicated space on corporate Boards – the intent of the Government and the Regulatory Authorities is identical – not to enhance gender diversity but to have a varied voice, opinion, thought and approach. To have a mindset that is different from our own. And indeed, it comes from experience that women per se have been endowed with a unique power of seeing the aspects others might miss – that “reading between the lines” seems to come naturally to them.

And the day, while on one hand, focusses on empowering those who need the sharing of strength and voice to be found, on the other hand, it celebrates the women in their true feminine form – one that brings peace and clarity in chaos and confusion.

With the world order changing at an unprecedented pace, it would be an absolute delight to watch and serve besides this brigade and create a better world together.

CSIA GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AWARDS : SHAPING GOVERNANCE CULTURE GLOBALLY

“To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance”

- ICSI’s Vision

On the note of making the world a better place, the same is completely, totally and inevitably impossible without the foundation of a strong governance framework.

Hosting the CSIA (Corporate Secretaries International Association) Strategic Planning Meeting, Council Meeting and the Global Governance Awards preceded by two Panel Discussions on the topics of ESG and Artificial Intelligence brought us not just steps but miles closer to our vision.

Even though the world comprises land and water, continents and oceans; the evening of the Awards, it all came together within those 4 walls. The wisdom stemming from discussions, the optimism sprawling from recognition – all were a reiteration of the fact that individually as an Institute and profession and together as Governance Professionals spread across the world – we are making a difference and we are doing it right.

Our heartiest gratitude to Team CSIA headed by Ms. Funmi Ekundayo, President, CSIA for making us a part of your journey of instilling governance through motivation, inspiration and adulation. It is a matter of great pride that the position of Vice President of CSIA

is held by CS Dhananjay Shukla, Immediate Former President of ICSI. An equal quantum of congratulations are in order for all the finalists and winners of the Awards who with their practical emulation of trust, transparency and accountability – raised the standards of governance by several notches. We are immensely proud to have had the opportunity to play hosts to such a landmark moment of awarding recognitions to leaders in governance.

Looking forward to many more good times of collaboration ahead...!!!

EXTENDING GRATITUDE : SHARING DELIGHT

“India is a heaven for those wanting to invest; we are working on the ease of doing business in the country.”

*- Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon’ble Prime Minister of India*

The tripod of Regulatory Authorities, professionals and professional bodies and corporates is the perfect epitome of synergy in the Indian business and economic ecosystem. It is through our combined efforts that we aim to achieve the national agenda and goal of creating a Viksit Bharat.

The very recent roll out of the Companies Compliance Facilitation Scheme 2026 is a pivotal initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to provide a one-time opportunity to allow companies to file their documents pertaining to Annual Return and Financial Statements while condoning the delay on their part by paying only a part of the total additional fees payable on account of delays.

On behalf of all our stakeholders – the corporates and the professionals, we at the ICSI extend our heartfelt gratitude towards the Ministry of Corporate Affairs headed by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, for acceding to our request and launching the Companies Compliance Facilitation Scheme, 2026 (CCFS 2026). We are immensely thankful towards Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, Secretary, MCA and all other officials of the Team MCA for having a sympathetic approach and lending us a patient ear; and along with that for taking our request forward.

I appeal all my professional colleagues to utilise these 50 days from the date of circular up to the beginning of CCFS to ensure that all documents are in order so as to make good all compliances and reap maximum benefits of the Scheme.

We are truly assured that this initiative will definitely improve compliance and strengthen the governance framework of India Inc. while promoting ease of doing business as well providing much relief to the smaller entrepreneurs including MSMEs and private companies.

On another front, we also express our immense pleasure and deep gratitude towards Prof. (Dr.) Unnat P. Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks and the Team at his Office for rolling out the National IP Pendency Elimination Karma Mission (NIPEKM).

This development akin to the CCFS marks a landmark moment in restructuring the entire IP application process and providing much relief to all stakeholders. Not only will this move be furthering the vision of liquidating the critical pre-examination pendency of Trade Mark applications in the Trade Marks Registry (TMR), but will also promote ease of doing business and strengthen the positioning of the Indian brands on a global platform.

As a nation striving towards becoming Viksit Bharat, Intellectual Property Rights have come to play a key role in the overall strengthening of the Indian business ecosystem giving greater impetus to MSMEs and Startups. The NIPEKM shall further affirm our resolve to lead the world.

Furthermore, during our meeting we have been assured that the matters of pending trademarks will be resolved soon.

To simplified times ahead !!!

ICSI COLLABORATIONS : STRATEGIZING SYNERGIES SKILLFULLY

“Synergy (si-nuh-jee) :

The combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately.”

The reason behind using the simplest definition of the terminology rather than any quote is that no other quote that I came across could truly portray the meaning of this word and its significance in our professional world.

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), in our togetherness explore new avenues, find new pathways and chalk roadmaps to move forward on them.

Very recently at the Global Securities Markets Conclave 2.0, the ICSI launched three Certificate Courses namely, Regulatory Framework for Capital Market Intermediaries in the IFSC; Regulatory Framework for Fund Management in the IFSC and Corporate Governance in the IFSC. Apart from these a Specialized paper on ‘IFSCA - Regulations, Listing

and Compliances’ was also launched to form part of the ICSI Course Curriculum.

On the same platform the ICSI and the India International Exchange IFSC Limited (India INX) entered into an MOU for strategic alliance. The partnership aims to harness India INX’s position as the pioneering international exchange at GIFT IFSC alongside ICSI’s expertise in global governance and compliance space.

Moving from Western to Southern Side of the country and launching the ICSI Certificate Courses for more than 18,000 students of the Bangalore University; the intent across all these partnerships remains the same – gaining new ground, exploring new opportunities and to serve the nation and its various stakeholders in a better manner...

ICSI STUDENTS : THE FUTURE TORCHBEARERS OF ICSI

I believe congratulations are in order for all the rank holders and with them the entire long list of students who have passed their respective Executive and Professional Programme Examinations conducted in December 2025. Yes, it is a matter of shared happiness and delight that you have come steps closer to achieving your dream. Meanwhile, I also commend the strong support lent by the members to their trainees and younger friends – being their hope in times of despair and guiding them all the way through. And for those who could not sail through, as professionals in making we do not expect you to sit and fret and worry – but take this in your stride, prepare well and get ready... for even if you arrive a bit later than expected – you will find us waiting with open arms and even widely open doors to the profession...

For those who are still contemplating as to whether they should take the plunge or not, the CS Course still awaits and there can be no better time than this moment at hand for the Student Amnesty Scheme awaits you...!!!

On that optimistic note of adding more hands to serve the nation, I extend my best of wishes for the times ahead...

With warm regards



CS Pawan G. Chandak
President, ICSI