June 15, 2016

Dear Professional Colleagues,

I am really privileged and honoured to pen this message on the occasion of PCS Day celebrations being organized today, June 15, 2016, the day on which the Company Secretaries in Practice were accorded recognition for Certifying the Annual Returns under the erstwhile Companies Act, 1956. This day became the first milestone in the development of the practising side of the profession of Company Secretaries in India. I am nostalgic about how the profession gave us professionals’ an identity, exalted status, high standing and prominent position, status amongst the corporate, regulators, and the society at large.

The day should be celebrated with enthusiasm as a thanks giving to the pioneers in the profession who left no stone unturned to reach new milestones with each added recognition of Practicing Company Secretaries that came our way. Although the profession of Company Secretaries has been in place for over two and a half decades since 1988, it was only on June 15, 1988 that the first statutory recognition for practicing company secretaries was secured. This was not by chance; it was the result of the dedication, commitment, idealistic approach and focus on the needs of the stakeholders being practiced by the members of the Institute at that time.

The company secretary today is the bridge builder between the law and its compliance by the corporate, by guiding ethical conduct towards compliance in true letter and spirit. It is time that we as scholars of corporate laws continue our pursuit of knowledge towards attaining professional excellence. The role as Secretarial Auditor envisaged for Company Secretaries under the Companies Act, 2013 is a newly given power and has also made us even more accountable for the actions of the corporate not just to the investors but to the society at large. Likewise, the enormous scope is in the offing with NCLT & NCLAT being made functional and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Code providing
ample opportunities to Company Secretaries enabling them to provide corporate advice and value added solutions in the area of Bankruptcy, Insolvency, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Restructuring of Companies; GST Laws, Real Estate Act, Companies Act, 2013 etc. are all looking at us.

'Never before, we have witnessed so much happening at a single moment of time'!!

The opportunities for Company Secretaries are huge. We should develop competency and ability which would help us utilize the opportunities which are now open to us. A true professional will be judged by the way in which it will serve the interest of the stakeholders. The launching of CS Acceleration Centre (CSAC) in tandem with the project of Government of India 'Start Up India' is a ambitious step in the direction. It is an initiative of its kind and is the first one. CSAC is a training and academic initiative of the ICSI to groom the young professionals. It aims to provide incubation and acceleration facilities in the form of physical infrastructure provision of membership support, access to networks, access to market etc. and provide a platform for developing business and networking.

The message that the Company Secretaries are the professionals of the current millennium is to cut the rock and let us all work towards it.

In Shakespeare’s words, ‘We know what we are, but know not what we may be’!

Let’s get going!

'Time waits for none.' So, seize the Opportunity. Look at the opportunities around yourself and you will realize that the world is Yours'.

I thankfully and graciously acknowledge the efforts of all my Council Colleagues and more specifically, the members of the Practising Company Secretaries Committee led by CS Ashish Garg.

I also thank the precious officers of the Institute for their support & untiring efforts.

CS MAMTA BINANI
President