Not the wrongs, not the fails, not the bruises but it is the willingness to take the step of faith that matters. The Railway Budget 2016-17 is a reformist budget aimed at creating a strong base for economic growth. It is a measure of magnanimity by all means. It simply shows the power of harnessing the present. It is always said that the train reaches its destination only when all the bogies connected with it are also moving in the same direction. Railway Budget also takes forward the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s dream project Start-Up, Stand Up India, by way of an innovation grant. Swachh Bharat gets another address in the form of ‘Clean my Coach’ initiative! Reservation for women passengers is another very thoughtful and considerate step taken by the Minister. I would especially like to thank him for his special attention to North East Corridors of the nation. Execution will hold the key to everything and as it is popularly said that ‘Taste lies in eating the pudding’! I say that the pudding itself is so well served and is so palatable that the senses have already started sending positive vibes. We wish his mission a grand success and The Institute of Company Secretaries of India is there to shoulder all responsibilities, both said and the unsaid, cast on it.

CS Manita Binani
President, ICSI

THE ICSI WELCOMES THE RAIL BUDGET
Hails its progressive approach for better growth

WE ALSO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING MAJOR INITIATIVES

- Innovation grant of ₹50 crore to be awarded to start-ups
- Railways to move towards completely paperless contract system in 2016-17
- Introducing measures like disable-friendly toilet, kids menu, baby food & hot water, local cuisines, Wi-Fi at 100 stations, GPS-based digital display in coaches, cancellation facility through helpline number, enhanced capacity of e-ticketing system
- 33% reservation to women in reserved quota in Railways, along with increased lower berth quota for senior citizens
- New trains to be introduced include Humsafar Express (full air-conditioned third AC service with an operational services for meals), Tejas (trains with operating speeds of 130kmph and above with world-class on board services), Utsrighat and Yatri Uday express (Trains with increased carrying capacity) and Deen Dayalu coaches (unreserved coaches for long distance trains)
- Outlay for railway electrification increased by 50 per cent with a target of electrification of 2,000-km route in the next fiscal.
- Redevelopment of 400 stations through PPP model. Starting with - Ajmer, Amritsar, Bihar Sharif, Gaya, Chengannur, Dwarka, Haridwar, Mathura, Tirupati and Varanasi.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH 7 MISSION MODE ACTIVITIES

- Mission 25 Tonne aimed to increase revenue by augmenting carrying capacity.
- Mission Zero Accident comprises of two sub missions i.e. elimination of unmanned level crossings and introduction of Train Collision Avoidance System to reduce deaths due to accidents
- Mission PACE aimed to improve procurement and consumption practices to improve the quality of goods and services.
- Mission Raftaar targets doubling of average speeds of freight trains and increasing the average speed of superfast mail/express trains by 25 kmph in the next 5 years.
- Mission Hundred aimed at commissioning at least a 100 sidings in the next 2 years.
- Mission beyond book-keeping aimed at establishing an accounting system where outcomes can be tracked to inputs.
- Mission Capacity Utilisation aimed to prepare a blueprint for full utilisation of the capacity that will be created through two Dedicated Freight Corridors between Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata scheduled to be commissioned by 2019.