“Let us march together because talent wins games but teamwork wins championships”

Esteemed Professional Colleagues

The beginning, it is said, is only the start of a journey to another beginning. I have begun my new role as the President of ICSI from 19th January 2016, with an inspired vigour to scale new meaningful heights of excellence and rectitude in diverse ways. A journey of a thousand miles begins with small but firm dedicated steps.

I feel privileged to share my thoughts with you through this prestigious Journal after assuming this resplendent Office. At the onset, I express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues in the Council for reposing their confidence and unwavering trust in me for undertaking this mammoth responsibility. It is the vision and the untiring zeal of the illustrious Immediate Past President, Past Presidents, Past Council Members, Past Secretaries, ICSI Officers, Past Regional Council Members, Past Chapter Managing Committee Members, which has brought glory and meaning to ICSI’s journey of 47 years. The team ICSI which is an amalgam of adroit strengths and intellects is now carrying the baton and is taking the Institute’s mission forward for further creating a strong brand for ICSI.

It is also the dynamic stewardship of every member that has led ICSI to touch commendable heights and gain immense trust and confidence of the Government of India, regulatory authorities and corporate sector. As a President, I can’t ask for a better foundation and will certainly be a keeper of this legacy.

While great milestones have already been coined by our past leaders, we would always be insatiable and longing to add more apposite feathers to the repository. All stakeholders would be anxious to know about the drops of water, Team ICSI is going to effectively pour into the ocean of ICSI. Hereunder, we are taking an inventory of few of our goals and will keep on communicating with you, in the days to come:

**Brand Image:** Our first and foremost agenda is to take the strong brand to a new high. Team ICSI will be dedicated towards it and this sensitisation will surely enable creating more opportunities for members and inculcate a sense of humongous pride in the minds of students and members.

**Governance:** Our Institute has always been at the forefront of promoting Corporate Governance; in line with this, it
gives me immense pleasure to inform that the Institute has on January 6, 2016 announced 2016 as the ‘Mission Year for Corporate Governance’ and the proposal for observing ‘International Corporate Governance Day’ (ICGD) is also being mooted. ICSI will showcase Governance at every touch point. The Council has voluntarily adopted Secretarial Standards for its meetings from its very first meeting of this term.

**Skill CS:** Our vision for ICSI during this year is in close affinity to the vision of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to make India a ‘Skill Capital of the World’. Congruent with the same, the talent of our professionals will be further worked on, so as to be the ‘Skill Capital of the Indian Corporate World’. The strive would be to enrich our intellectual capital with the skill-sets required to become a ‘Complete Professional’.

**Members’ Strength:** A repository of strength is lying in our esteemed members. We want to harness the same towards the benefit of the Institution and that can only become possible with the active participation of the members. In this direction, a form under the nomenclature of ‘Know Your Member’ has been developed so as to get the relevant information pertaining to the members. The said form has been included as a part of this Journal for your valuable comments and suggestions. Kindly give some time to it. Your good selves are the ones who are engaged in multifaceted functions and are handling the most erudite boards and touching lives everyday. All of us coming together will be a matter of awe and a turning point for the Institute.

**NCLT:** National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the NCLAT is coming with monumental opportunities for the profession. The need of the hour for ICSI is to enable focussed high quality learning by means of audio-visual aids like that of court room set-ups for NCLT and to take it to stakeholders belonging to all geographies through web-casts and webinars. To have a fiery and dedicated approach, we are also forming core groups for the subjects like Companies Act, Secretarial Audit, Insolvency Laws, GST, Internal Audit, CSR, Training for Directors etc. We also invite our members to write to us about their areas of interest in which they would like to contribute.

**Regulatory inputs:** The dynamism in the various regulatory frameworks deserves and demands the considered inputs of the Institute and we pledge our first and immediate attention to it.

The Companies Law Committee (CLC) submitted its report to the Government today, i.e. February 1, 2016. The CLC has, *inter-alia*, recommended amendments to both the 2013 Act and the Rules to the 2013 Act. It has proposed changes in 78 Sections of the 2013 Act, which along with consequential changes, would result in about 100 amendments to the 2013 Act. It has proposed approximately 50 amendments to the Rules. The issues with regard to our profession has also been taken note of and will be duly represented by ICSI with strong conviction.

**Incubation Centres:** At ICSI, we would like to rev-up the dream of ‘Start Up-Stand Up CS’ and the endeavour would be to burn the entrepreneurial fire in our professionals. With the various initiatives of the Government of India, there is a sea of opportunities just waiting to get unleashed optimally. ICSI will be readily providing proactive and measureable support to scale up the ambitions of the go-getters and to raise the magnitude of professionals by having Incubation Centres.

**Secretarial Standards:** Secretarial Standards (SS) is very close to the hearts of all. For the leaders of yester years and that of today because it is their zeal and efforts that has borne fruit. The glory of it will always be upheld. The kind of governance that mandation of Secretarial Standards has brought with it is commendable. The Institute is working on developing international Secretarial Standards on Board Meetings on a request received from CSIA (Corporate Secretaries International Association) for the international member countries of CSIA. The existing secretarial standards of India will entail modifications as per the suggestions of the CLC report and the Institute is working on the same.

Two new Standards - on Board’s Report and on Dividend are on the anvil.

**Information Technology:** The ambitious project covering the life cycle from pre-registration stage of student to member under SMASH (Student Member Application Software Hosting) project is in motion. This Digital ICSI platform shall ensure total online platform and seamless flow
From the President

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of information and effective monitoring of all touch points. We will aim to ensure its roll-out, with an eye on not losing the human warmth.

**Students and Infrastructure:** The big repository of talent lying subdued in our students will be harnessed. High attention will be given for creating opportunities for placement of management trainees. Oral coaching, study centres and revision classes will be strengthened and all stakeholders involved in this will be taken along. Career awareness and Counsellor appointments shall get due weightage. The infrastructure and need of manpower at the Regional Councils, Chapters and even at the Head Quarters is being reassessed and priority is being given to it.

**CSBF:** Company Secretaries Benevolence will get its due mindfulness. To start with, a desk has been dedicated for CSBF. We request all the Regional Councils and Chapters to contribute voluntarily a token amount of say Rs.10 per participant, per program to the CSBF. We shall work towards strengthening the team handling CSBF at ICSI and furthering the reach of CSBF with the kind assistance of the esteemed Managing Committees of CSBF, Regional Councils, Chapters and precious volunteers.

**Sharing of Concerns:** Further, we are on our toes to ensure that the communications received from our precious stakeholders are looked after judiciously. Officers at the Head Office, Regions and Chapters have been requested to not keep any communication on hold beyond 2 working days. I request the members to use the call centres and the grievance email id to the maximum as this has a strong monitoring system. Inspite of it, if there is anything that is not getting the desired attention, you may feel to write at president@icsi.edu.

**Young Members:** For our fresh members, who are always very close to our heart.....we truly believe that one of the many mantras to have a successful career and a meaningful life is to decide the goal of your life without wasting a single moment. As Swami Vivekananda says “Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life. Think of it, dream of it, and live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea aside. This is the way to Success”. Give yourself some time. Any profession or business demands a gestation period which needs to be handled with poise and patience.

**Placement for Members:** Here, let me make a mention of a strong placement drive that is a must for an Institute. We are conscious of this and we will work on it. **Indemnity and Insurance for our professionals is another such aspect which will get its due attention.**

‘Make in India’ Week to be held from 13 February to 18 February, 2016 at Mumbai, which, *inter alia*, is showcasing the pride of India and taking the corporate and public participation to the next level will be inaugurated by the hands of the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Different Ministries will have its esteemed pavilion. For the pavilion of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, ICSI is one of the proud partner and playing an effective role on all the days of the show and working shoulder to shoulder with MCA. I would like to thank the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India for its incessant guidance and for giving us the privilege to be partners in Nation building.

We acknowledge and offer our deep gratitude to the **Hon’ble Union Minister of Corporate Affairs, Finance and I & B, Shri Arun Jaitley**, for releasing the results of the Foundation program of ICSI through his gracious hands on January 27, 2016. This first time initiative has given a new dimension to our efforts.

We would be looking for all the support, synergy and cooperation as an invincible team ICSI. Ingenuity, plus courage, plus work equals miracles. Let’s all come together to create a vivid circle of influence.

Your valuable ideas and suggestions are priceless! Thank you for continuously sharing your views. These inputs are like blessings to us!

The path needed to travel and traverse may look laid down with hurdles at this point in time but it is at times self-limiting. The sky gets cleared as we move on, with passion and sincerity. Miles to go before we sleep...!!!

Best regards

Yours sincerely

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New Delhi

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