



ADVISORY FOR THE MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

1. Of late certain instances have come to the notice where a few members of the Institute and/or students have shared and/or posted material on social media without first ascertaining the veracity thereof. There have been occasions when the material shared/posted is found not only factually incorrect and misleading but has also the potential of damaging the reputation of the Institute, its members and other stake holders. Such recourse by the above members and/or students, being disdainful, ought to have been best avoided.
2. No doubt, the members of the Institute and/or the students being its stakeholders, can and should, share their concern, if any, but the same needs to be done in a manner befitting the image and standing of our profession. Our profession being our Almighty and the Institute being our alma mater, each one of us needs to ensure that none of our actions erodes, even slightly, the reputation and image of our Institute earned over the decades.
3. Though needless to mention, we, being the citizen of India, have been bestowed, among others, with the freedom of speech and expression right from the day we became republic. It is axiomatic that the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution of India is subject to reasonable restrictions as is it saddled with certain obligations. The advent of social media has greatly contributed in the sharing of thoughts and knowledge, when used appropriately, having applied the wisdom and maturity. Often, recourse to social media is taken mechanically and without due diligence, resulting in thereby infringing upon, sometimes unintended and possibly sometimes intended too, the right or dignity of another person. Rights and duties can only co-exist. One does not have an option to choose the right(s) alone.
4. This Advisory, therefore, has been compelled in the backdrop of the above.

5. Members and/or the students of the Institute, therefore, should refrain from making any misleading, incorrect, false, defamatory, derogatory comment(s), or even sharing such comments, against the Institute, Council, its leadership and/or any of its functionaries including the members, employees and other stakeholders and/or commenting/sharing on any matter under investigation/adjudication by the disciplinary mechanism. This is with the intent and to ensure that their thoughts and/or expressions do not infringe upon the dignity or reputation of any other person and/or should not cause any harm to the image of the Institute and its members and stakeholders, Council and/or its leadership, and any of their functionaries across the board or otherwise bring disrepute to the profession.
6. Such unwarranted instance(s) have triggered the disciplinary mechanism to view them seriously, and, therefore, any such misfeasance shall entail appropriate disciplinary and other appropriate action(s) against the erring member/student in accordance with the provisions of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 and the Regulations made or directions issued thereunder.
7. If a member and/or other stakeholder come across any incident whereby any of the above or related matter has been shared/posted, s/he is requested to please bring the same to the notice of the Institute.
8. All members and students are advised to follow the above Advisory in true letter and spirit.

(Dinesh C. Arora)
Secretary, the ICSI