



Dear Professional Colleagues,

I deem it my proud privilege to communicate with you after having assumed the august office of President of the largest statutory setup established to regulate and develop the profession of company secretaries. At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you and to my colleagues on the Council for reposing confidence in me.

I express my sincere thanks to my illustrious predecessors and particularly my immediate predecessor CS R Sridharan for valuable contribution in promoting the cause of the profession. I also express my thanks to my colleagues of 11th Council whose term expired on January 18, 2015 for their time, energy and untiring efforts for the growth and development of the profession. I also take this opportunity to assure you that I would put my best efforts to carry the flag of the Institute high with unrelenting zeal and indomitable spirit and achieve further commendable heights with confidence and trust of all of you and that of the government, regulators and corporate sector.

Friends, the polling for elections to 12th Council and Regional Councils of the Institute was held on December 12, 2014, December 13, 2014 in Delhi and Mumbai and December 12, 2014 at other places. The elections to Managing Committee of Chapters were held on December

20, 2014. The election results have been notified. I wish to congratulate all newly elected members to Council, Regional Councils and Managing Committee of Chapters and thank my professional brethren for participating in the elections process. The Institute now have a new dynamic team full of energy and ideas at the Central Council, Regional Councils and Chapter level. In this knowledge and information technology driven world with hand held networking devices, I strongly believe that there is need to switch over to e-voting in our polling process too. I will take this agenda with my Council colleagues on a positive note.

Friends, networking, technology, stakeholder engagement are inter-influential and has impacted every sphere of business and profession leading to business dynamism having innovation as basic ingredient. Harnessing of technology and re-engineering of processes in the right time and in the right manner will be my endeavour to provide effective and efficient services to our stakeholders. Smart working is an art of identifying the enablers that makes our lives smoother. We as a leading professional body need to rightly strategise our plans for our stakeholders and to make use of the same at the optimum level. This effort has to happen at individual level as well as the institutional level. In this direction, I feel it is quite important for professionals like us to adapt to new technological and regulatory realities.



From the President

I urge upon you to further strengthen your competencies to shoulder the onerous responsibilities cast upon us by the regulators. Given the new and complex challenges we face, what's needed now more than ever is to provide corporate solutions and value added services.

The year gone by has been a year of strategies and actions setting high goals for the Institute in terms of capitalising on challenges under the Companies Act, 2013 and rules framed thereunder. A number of publications and programmes, technology initiatives have been taken in this direction. Secretarial Audit has given new dimension to our profession and in this direction, the Institute have set in motion the process of preparing list of laws applicable specifically to companies and also background papers on Secretarial Audit for the benefit of members. Nationwide capacity building programs for members both in employment and in practice have also been planned. Meantime, Company Secretaries in various industry segments are being approached to share the lists of laws applicable to their company, which will provide the basic foundation for ICSI to build the database of Industry specific applicable laws. Capacity building to justify our new role has now become of utmost importance and I sincerely request you to participate in all such capacity building programmes.

The Institute has represented to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to provide for certification of Form AOC-4 (Form for filing financial statement and other documents with the Registrar under section 137 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 12(1) of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014) by Company Secretaries in Practice. The SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2014 provide for mandatory appointment of Company Secretary as compliance officer except for units of Mutual Funds listed on Stock Exchanges.

Globally, ICSI is amongst the largest professional bodies of Company Secretaries having the most number of members and students. My endeavour will be to build our presence and visibility upon this leadership position at International level. Substantial work has been done towards opening a Chapter formally at Dubai. The Institute had dialogue with counterparts in Malaysia and Bangladesh for mutual

recognition agreements for the benefit of the members and students of respective Institutes and to make the profession of Company Secretaries truly global. It shall be my endeavour to conclude the discussion and the agreements entered into with the respective Institutes at the earliest.

We will be unfolding agenda for the year shortly. We will focus on Capacity Building of our members and students, more recognitions, improvement in quality of knowledge materials and skill enhancement of the students. I understand the expectations of the stakeholders and that the task is enormous which calls for proactive approach, healthy debate and collective wisdom. I seek your guidance, advice, suggestions and support in continuing and building upon the excellent work already done for the growth and development of the profession.

I strongly believe that the Institute need be connected to its members through – emails, sms, new age social media like facebook, linkedin, knowledge portal, etc. and this is all the more important when the whole corporate landscape is undergoing second stage metamorphosis. I have observed that, many of our members and students have not updated their email id, contact numbers, and professional address in the Institute's database. I humbly request all of them to visit ICSI website and update their details, as it will help us in seamless communication.

I am confident that with your support and wisdom, I shall be able to carry out the plans and tasks initiated by my predecessors and devise strategies and action plans for providing new dimensions to the profession of Company Secretaries, in the current business environment evolving, out of highly contestable market dynamics.

With kind regards,

January 30, 2015.

Yours sincerely,

(CS ATUL H MEHTA)
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