

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

-- Thomas A. Edison



CMA MANAS KUMAR THAKUR
President
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

My Dear Professional Colleagues,

Namaskar.

On behalf of the Institute and on my personal behalf, I convey heartiest wishes to all members, students, stakeholders and their families on the occasion of the festival of colours, HOLI. HOLI represents the bright colours of our diverse multicultural society and the spirit of tolerance and harmony that has been the essence of our culture and civilisation. May this festival of colours bring happiness, good health and prosperity to all!

Placement Months

At the outset, I am thankful to the Industry and Corporates for their continued support in terms of finding their future managers through the placement program of the Institute. The excellent professional track record of Institute's members has been amply demonstrated not only within the country but also globally over a period of 7 decades. The recently qualified CMAs of the Institute are exposed to the real life business situations as many of them are either working in various enterprises or have undergone training imparted by various arms of the Institute with knowledge on the specialized domain of cost & management accounting techniques, finance & accounting,

auditing, taxation, management and information technology and hence are capable of handling real time challenges of the business. I am happy to inform that the Institute is planning to schedule the campus placement program for the recently qualified CMAs of December 2016 term examination **during the months of March and April 2017 at prominent locations throughout the Country.** We are targeting a 100% placement record at our Institute and I order to achieve this, I urge all the members, especially those who are in service, to help the Institute for placing the passed out students and also take up the issue with the management of their respective organisations.

Meeting with Competition Commission of India (CCI)

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has been in the process of developing an advocacy strategy based on specific consultations termed as Focused Group Discussions (FGD). It was my pleasure to meet Shri Manoj Pandey, IRS, Advisor (Advocacy & Legal Division), Competition Commission of India on 8th February 2017 at New Delhi and to discuss the proposal contemplated to organise a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) of the diverse groups of stakeholders to understand their knowledge, perception and attitudes about competition law and have a communication and engagement with external stakeholders at Kolkata in March 2017.

Meeting with VIPs

- I along with CMA Biswarup Basu, Council Member and Senior Officials of the Institute met the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathy, at the Governor House on 7th February, 2017 and discussed with him the role to be played by various activities of the Institute.

- I got an opportunity to meet Hon'ble Dr. Kiran Bedi, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Hon'ble Shri V. Narayanasamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry on 12th February 2017 and discussed with them the role to be played by the CMA professional in the economic development of the state.
- I got an opportunity to meet Dr. Kartikeya V Sarabhai at Ahmedabad on 24th February 2017. The discussion during the meeting was focussed round the role of Cost and Management Accountants in Environmental Management Accounting. I am thankful to CMA AG Dalwadi, fellow Member of the Institute for his initiatives to hold this important meeting.

Felicitation of Padma Awardees

- I along with CMA Biswarup Basu, Council Member and Secretary of the Institute visited IEST and felicitated the Padma Shri Awardee in the field of Science and Engineering, Professor Ajoy Kumar Ray, Director of IEST on 6th February 2017 at Kolkata. He proposed various tie-ups with the Institute and discussed at length in extending all possible linkages with the Institute for various matters of mutual interest.
- I also had the privilege to felicitate Shri Bipin Ganatra, Padma Shri Awardee towards social service and for being a valiant fire fighter and saving numerous lives of citizens of Kolkata in various fire incidents in and around Kolkata. CMA Amal Kumar Das, and CMA Harijiban Banerjee, Past Presidents of the Institute and other senior Officials of the Institute were also present at the felicitation.

MoU with West Bengal State University

I wish to inform that on behalf of the Institute, I signed one Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the West Bengal State University (WBSU) on 9th February 2017 at the premises of the University. On behalf of the West Bengal State University Prof. Basab Choudhuri, Vice Chancellor signed the MoU. The purpose of the said MOU is to enhance the employability skills of general students during their pursuing the college course under the said University and its colleges and also to extend support to the Government of West Bengal by doing joint research activities. The MoU was signed in the presence of CMA Biswarup Basu, Council Member-ICAI, CMA Bibekananda Mukhopadhyay, Chairman, ICAI-EIRC and other senior officials of the Institute and the University.

Union Budget 2017

The Union Budget 2017-18, presented by Hon'ble Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Finance Minister on was very balanced and growth oriented one. Steps taken for MSMEs, Tourism and Rural habitats will improve the capacity building of the nation. Conducive environment for banking industry, which at present is struggling with NPAs, is expected to be created by proposing Tax concession on provisions for bad loans. Affordable housing getting infrastructure status will enable efficient supply of housing stock in the country and provide benefits to all associated with it. Steps proposed by the Finance Minister will help the GDP to be bigger and cleaner after demonetization which helped in transfer of resources from tax evaders to government. All in all it seems that the Finance Minister has given deep thought to resource mapping and optimum utilization of scarce resources of the Country. We sincerely hope that all announcements, proposals and allocations will go a long way in providing strength to the Indian Economy and boost the morale of each and every segment of the

society. We hope that announcements like restricting cash transactions, donation to political parties, moving towards cashless economy, digitization and tax relief to salaried personnel are the steps in right direction. I on behalf of the Institute and CMA fraternity congratulated the Union Finance Minister and extended wholehearted support to the Government of India in all of its endeavours.

Interactive Discussion Meet on Emerging Issues

I along with the Vice President and other Council Colleagues attended an "Interactive Discussion Meet" on Demonetization, Budget, GST and other emerging issues, on 13th February 2017 in Institute's Auditorium at Kolkata. The event organised by the Institute, was a grand success with participation of more than 100 Post-Graduate students and faculties from various universities like Rajiv Gandhi University-Arunachal Pradesh; Bhawanipur Education Society; Army Institute of Management; Globsyn Business School; Jadavpur University and Amity University-Kolkata. Padma Shree Bipin Ganatra was the Chief Guest of this event and Dr. Pankaj Kumar Roy, Principal, Jogesh Chandra Chowdhury College was the Guest of Honour. The dignitaries offered their deliberations on various topics like Demonetization and its impact on Indian Economy, Budget-2017, GST& its implications, Accounting Standards, Cost and Management issues, etc.

Proposal for DDUGKY project

I am pleased to share that the West Bengal Government is considering our proposal for Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) project. To discuss the implementation of this project, I had the occasion to discuss the project with the Chapters from West Bengal on 21st February at Kolkata. I am quite hopeful to see the project helping the youth of West Bengal. Similar initiatives are being taken in the States of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Results of December 2016 term

The Institute has been able to successfully declare Foundation, Intermediate and Final results for December 2016 term of Examination. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the passed out students and wish them a bright future. I also wish best of luck to all those who could not cross the line this time.

Initiatives by various departments of the Institute

Continuing Professional Development

- I am pleased to inform that the Institute organized a 24 Hours Seminar on "Companies Act 2013, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code etc." from 6am of 24th February 2017 to 6am of 25th February 2017 at New Delhi. The main speaker in the seminar was CMA Dr P V S Jagan Mohan Rao, Council Member. The seminar was well received by the members and student of the Institute.
- Institute in association with PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised National GST Conclave on "One Nation One Tax - Pivotal Tax Reforms" on 9th February 2017 at New Delhi.
- I am pleased to inform you that the Institute is organizing **National Conference on the theme "Sustainable Infrastructure" on 23rd March 2017 at Hotel Taj Mahal, New Delhi** to showcase the importance of Good Infrastructure for the economy and role of CMA professionals. It is pertinent to

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mention that sustainable infrastructure enables sound economic development and enhances quality of life, increases positive impacts, helps protect our vital natural resources and environment, and promotes a more effective and efficient use of financial resources. CMA fraternity is committed to encourage development of Sustainable Infrastructure by encouraging optimum use of materials, pollution prevention, reduced carbon emissions, and better labor & community relations. I urge you to be a part of this conference.

- I sincerely appreciate our Regional Councils and Chapters for organizing various programs, seminars and discussions on the topics of professional relevance and importance for the members such as Union Budget, GST, Demonetization-Effect on Economy, IND AS and IBC etc.

International Affairs

- I am happy to inform you that Prof. Lakshman R Watawala, President, CMA-Sri Lanka visited the Institute on 15th February 2017 to discuss the matters of professional interest, to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the interest of members and students of both the Institutes. It was proposed to have some educational exchange programmes under a reciprocal arrangement through Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). It was agreed to engage into a joint research work in the interest of both the countries. Further, it was agreed to have a global conference of CMA Bodies either in India or in Sri Lanka.
- In order to maintain cordial relation with CMA Sri Lanka, the Vice President and Chairman, WTO, International Affairs and Sustainability Committee of the Institute visited Colombo, Sri Lanka to attend meetings with officials of CMA Sri Lanka and other Government officials during 26th to 28th February 2017. Vice President represented the Institute as a resource person for the Integrated Reporting seminar organised by the CMA Sri Lanka.
- The WTO, International Affairs and Sustainability Committee is planning to organise an International Conference which will connect the CMA professionals across the globe to discuss the importance of Cost and Management Accounting structure to achieve excellence.
- The Institute represented in a meeting on 2nd February 2017 at Ministry of Commerce & Industry, under Chairmanship of Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, to discuss the relevance of ISO in services related standards in the context of Australia's proposal on Domestic Regulations on Technical Standards. In view of the discussions, the Chair suggested to draft a counter proposal by India.
- The Institute represented in a "Workshop on Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS)" jointly organised by FICCI, Department of Commerce (Government of India) and Centre for WTO Studies on 21st February 2017. India has recently presented a Paper on "Possible Elements of a TFS Agreement" in WTO. The TFS Agreement would play a critical role in addressing the key issues that are pertinent to facilitating trade in services, such as transparency, streamlining procedures, and eliminating bottlenecks. The workshop provided an opportunity to get a better understanding of the agreement and the challenges faced by the Indian industry.
- The Committee is also planning to conduct webinars for mem-

bers on the topics of professional relevance and global importance. We would be happy to receive some suggestive topics of your interest. I request you to please send your suggestions on intlaffairs@icmai.in.

Membership Department

The new financial year looming in the horizon will bring in its own bouquet of challenges, opportunities and obligations. Members are kindly aware that Membership fee and Certificate of Practice (CoP) renewal fee falls due on at the start of the financial year. I request the members to clear their dues at an early date preferably by online mode or by sending remittances to the Institute. For renewal of CoP for the FY 2017-18 an advisory has been uploaded on the Institute's website and has also been published in this Journal for general guidance to CoP holders.

Research and Journal Department

- I wish to inform that I attended the inaugural session of a UGC Sponsored International Conference cum Research Methodology Workshop organized by the Institute in collaboration with the department of Commerce with Farm Management of Vidyasagar University based on the theme 'Emerging Issues in Accounting and Finance' on 10th and 11th February 2017 at the premises of the University in Midnapore. Professor Ddamodar Mishra, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Commerce, Vidyasagar University, Professor Malayendu Saha, Chairman of the West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination Board and Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani, Professor Ravindran Ramasamy from the Graduate School of Business, University Tun Abdul Razak, Malaysia and Dr. S. Anand, Director, Postgraduate Studies and Research Department, College of Banking and Financial Studies, Sultanate of Oman, CMA Prof. Kalpataru Bandopadhyay, Professor and Head, Department of Commerce and Jt. Org. Secretary, EIAF 2017 and Dr. Abhijit Sinha, Assistant Professor and Jt. Org. Secretary, EIAF 2017, CMA Prof. Kartick Chandra Paul, Dr. Sibaram Chatterjee, Mr. Sourav Hansda, Prof. Mauli Sanyal and Prof. Radhagovinda Basak were among the eminent dignitaries present in the workshop. The two day workshop was highly interactive and received overwhelming response from the participants.
- I am pleased to inform that the Institute has taken the noble initiative to introduce National Skill & Entrepreneurship Development Programme (NSED) for the selective college and university students to promote entrepreneurship and skill development for creating self-employment through enterprise creation as a part of nation building process. It is a pleasure to inform that the Institute has already entered into two path breaking MoUs with NSDA and EDI to enable offering various collaborative activities for promoting and to encourage skill and entrepreneurship development pan India basis through enhancing entrepreneurial competencies and capacity building activities. Three colleges in West Bengal, namely Mahadevananda Mahavidyalaya, Barrackpore, Chakdaha College, Ramnagar College Purba Medinipur have already been enlisted for this programme which is scheduled to be commenced from March 2017. This initiative has been supported by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Helicopter Division, Barrackpore through its CSR activities.
- I am pleased to attend the one-day national seminar cum ca-

reer awareness programme on 'Management and Commerce Education and Beyond- The Professional Edge' at Bipin Chandra Paul Seminar Hall, Assam University, Silchar on 16th February 2017. The program was inaugurated by Professor D.C. Nath, Vice Chancellor of Assam University. Other eminent dignitaries present in the seminar include, CMA Prof. A.L. Ghosh, Head of the Department of MBA, Professor A. Mazumdar, Dean, JNSMS, Assam University, CMA Mrityunjay Acharjee, Associate Vice President, Balmer Lawrie & Co, Mr Diptendu Moulik, Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) of India Limited, CMA Dr. Debaprosanna Nandy, Director, Research & Journal and Examination of the Institute and they all enlightened the students with their thought provoking speeches. The entire session was highly enthusiastic and would surely bolster the confidence of the students and urge them to pursue various professional courses in near future. More than 500 students and faculty members from the University and different colleges attended the seminar.

Technical Directorate

CASB

I thank members and industry for their valuable suggestions/ comments on the Exposure Draft regarding the impact of IndAS in Cost Accounting Standards. The Cost Accounting Standards Board (CASB) is considering these suggestions/ comments in its next meeting before finalizing the "Limited Revision of Cost Accounting Standards". The secretariat of CASB has already worked out the impact of GST on Cost Accounting Standards and the Board also considered this agenda item in its meeting held in November 2016 to bring the "Limited Revision of Cost Accounting Standards". The impact of GST was approved by the Board based on Rules as contained in the Model GST Law released by Government of India prior to 22nd November 2016. The exposure draft for the cost accounting standards having impact of GST will be released by the Board for public comments/ suggestions as soon as the Government releases the revised Rules under GST.

CAASB

The Cost Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (CAASB) has already released the Exposure Draft of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the "Standards on Cost Auditing" (SCA 1 to SCA 4) for public comments/ suggestions. I request members and other stakeholders to send in their comments/ suggestions to Institute latest by 9th of March 2017 to enable the Institute to improve these FAQs before they are released by the Institute in final form. The members may refer to Institute website for more details. I would also like to inform the members that after release of "Limited Revision of Cost Accounting Standards" having impact of IndAS and GST, the CAASB will undertake the CRA-1 for revision and will send the suggestions to Ministry of Corporate Affairs to revise CRA-1 so that the principles enshrined in CRA-1 are in sync with the Cost Accounting Standards.

Peer Review

The Council of the Institute has already approved the "Peer Review System" and also constituted a "Peer Review Board". The Board has been empowered by the Council to formulate, implement and oversee the Peer Review System under the overall supervision of the Council. The "Peer Review System" along with list of members of the Board is available on the Institute website. A separate website for Peer Review Board is being launched on the subject matter by the Institute soon.

Insolvency Professional Agency of the Institute (IPA of ICAI)

I congratulate all those Insolvency Professionals (IPs) enrolled with IPA of ICAI for passing "Limited Insolvency Examination" conducted by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). After passing examination, they have been enrolled afresh by IPA of ICAI and again registered with IBBI on regular basis. After passing "Limited Insolvency Examination" some of the new Insolvency Professionals have also enrolled with IPA of ICAI during the month of February 2017. A list of professional members registered with IBBI through enrolment with IPA of ICAI is available at www.ipaicmai.in along with other details such as eligibility conditions, Rules, and Regulations framed under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016. I am happy to note that Regional Councils and Chapters of the Institute are regularly conducting the Seminars and Programs on "Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016" towards capacity and skill development of the members of the Institute.

Initiatives by Regions & Chapters

- I was invited to attend the Regional Cost Conference-2017 organised by the Western India Regional Council and Ahmedabad Chapter of the Institute on the theme "Paradigm Shift in doing business" at Ahmedabad on 25th and 26th February 2017. The theme of the RCC was very timely and went well with national policies being implemented by the Government of India for the resurgence of the economy. Hon'ble Dr. Kiritbhai Solanki, Member of Parliament inaugurated the Conference. The event also included a Technical Session on "Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code & NCLT and Role of Cost Accountants/ Professionals" which was taken by CMA J K Budhiraja, CEO of IPA of ICAI.
- Dhanbad-Sindri Chapter of the Institute organised its Annual Seminar on the theme "Goods & Services Tax (GST) - way ahead" on 26th February 2017 at Dhanbad. I was invited as the Chief Guest of the seminar. I addressed the participants and said that GST is the buzz word these days and to update the members on the progress of proposed GST structure and its implication, this was a very appreciable initiative taken by the Chapter. This not only enlightened the members but also brought them closer to stakeholders for making consensus and facilitating smooth implementation of GST.
- I attended seminar on GST organised by the Raipur Chapter on 14th February 2017, which was inaugurated by Shri Amar Agarwal, Hon'ble Finance Minister of Government of Chhattisgarh.
- Three seminars/programs on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code have also been conducted in the month of February 2017 at Metur Salem Chapter, Jaipur Chapter and Northwest Delhi CEP Study Circle.

I wish prosperity and happiness to members, students and their families on the occasion of Holi, Chaitra Navaratri, Gudi Padwa, Ugadi and pray for the success in all of their endeavours.

With warm regards,



(CMA Manas Kumar Thakur)

1st March 2017