

"The negligence of a few could easily send a ship to the bottom, but if it has the wholehearted cooperation of all on board it can be safely brought to the port."

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

My Dear Professional Colleagues,

ith the air filled with festive excitement, the month of November holds some very special festivals of India. I convey my warm greetings & good wishes to the entire CMA fraternity for all the forthcoming festivals. Diwali marks the victory of good over evil and brightness over darkness. May this auspicious festival of lights illuminate your life and bring good health, wealth and prosperity.

December 2020 Examination

The pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the near-total closures of schools, institutions, universities and colleges. Online learning and online examination has become a critical lifeline for education, as institutions seek to minimize the potential for community transmission. Governments across countries have initiated universities and higher education systems to adapt to remote instruction to cover lectures, exams, evaluations, and result publications.

The Institute is committed to take every possible step in the overall interest of student community in the present scenario. Online classes for students and online home based

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ

CMA Biswarup Basu

President

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

examination for the foundation course are some of the important decisions already implemented successfully. Taking into consideration the prevailing condition, it is not possible to conduct the examination in physical exam mode for December 2020. So, the Institute to manage the affairs in the best interest of all stakeholders has decided to conduct the Intermediate and Final Examination in December 2020 in Online Mode only. This is the merged examinations of both June 2020 term and December 2020 term.

Candidates/Students are instructed to provide current in-use correct and updated contact details like mobile number and e-mail Id with all other required credentials with selection of:

- Center based Online
- 2. Home based Online to appear in the December 2020 examination
- 3. Opt-Out for next term in the form

The last date for filling-up of credentials and selection of any one of the above mentioned three options is 12th November 2020. Kindly visit the link available at *https://icmai.in/studentswebsite/exam.php*. Please note that after selection of an option to appear in the said examination, no request for any change will be entertained.

The Candidates/students are advised to visit the website of the Institute regularly for further notifications and announcements relating to December 2020 examination and in case of any query or clarification can e-mail us at - exam. helpdesk@icmai.in

Meeting with Member Finance, Railway Board

I along with CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice-President, CMA Chandra Wadhwa, Past President and CMA B.B. Goyal, Advisor, ICWAI MARF and former Addl. Chief Adviser, Ministry of Finance, GoI extended greetings to Shri Naresh Salecha, Member Finance, Railway Board on 14th October 2020 and

discussed about the progress of Indian Railways project on Performance Costing System in Indian Railways and other matters related to the CMA profession.

PCS Project for Indian Railways

I am happy to report that the ICWAI Management Accounting Research Foundation has submitted its Final Report on Performance Costing System (PCS) in Indian Railways on October 30, 2020. This report on the prestigious project has been well received and appreciated by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board). I congratulate the entire team for accomplishing this difficult task that was made possible by continuous monitoring and guidance by the Monitoring Task Force under the Chairmanship of CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice-President, ICAI and Director, MARF.

MOU with Government of Jammu and Kashmir

I am pleased to share that the Institute has signed a MoU with Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir on 29th October 2020 in the presence of CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice President, CMA Neeraj D. Joshi, Chairman, Management Accounting Committee and CMA Bashir Masoudi, Chairman, Srinagar Chapter of the Institute. The MOU provides for effective collaboration between the Institute and J&K Government for implementation of Skill Programme, Guidance in Development of Curriculum, Identification of Qualification Packs (QPs), Guidance in Development of Physical Infrastructure Labs, etc., Conduct of Assessments and Award of Certifications to benefit the student community at Colleges of UT of J&K to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Two Days' Global Virtual Conference by ASSOCHAM

I am pleased to inform you that the Institute associated with ASSOCHAM as "Supporting Partner" for organizing Two Days' Global Virtual Conference on "Audit, Risk & Governance, Emerging Trends, Current Challenges and Way Forward" on 27th & 28th October 2020. Eminent national and international speakers from the industry and associations deliberated on the recent global developments in audit profession, regulation and technology as well as to promote professional, organisational ethics and good governance in letter and spirit. I represented the Institute in the conference and delivered keynote address on "Cost Audit Perspectives" on 28th October 2020. Participants from government, business, industry and profession participated in the conference on subject of utmost significance.

Webinar by NIRC

I along with CMA Balwinder Singh, Immediate Past

President, CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman-Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Committee and Indirect taxation Committee of the Institute participated in the webinar organized by the NIRC of the Institute on "Stock Audit - Globally Sustainable Approach" on 20th October 2020. CMA (Dr.) Rajkumar S. Adukia and Shri Ravi Chopra, Prominent Author - Stock Audit were the "Key Note Speakers" of this webinar which was well received by the participants.

National Webinar by Kota Chapter

A National Webinar on "National Education Policy 2020 & Standardisation of Costing Concepts" was organised jointly by the Kota Chapter of the Institute and Indian Accounting Association, Kota Branch on 4th October 2020. Prof. Neelima Singh. Vice Chancellor. University of Kota, Prof. Kailash Sodani, Former Vice Chancellor, GGT University, Banswara and MDS University of Ajmer, Prof G. Soral, President, IAA, Former Dean & Head MLS University, Udaipur, Prof. K. Eresi, Chairman-PBL Committee, IAA, Past President-IAA, Former Professor & Dean, University of Bangalore, Prof. Sanjay Bhayani, General Secretary IAA, Dean & Head Department of Business Management, Saurashtra University, Rajkot were the Guest of Honours. The event witnessed the participation by CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice President, CMA Balwinder Singh, Immediate Past President and other council members of the Institute. Dr. Narayan Lal Gupta, Jt. Secretary, ABRSM and Prof. Ranjan K. Bal, Past President IAA, Former Professor, PG Department of Commerce and Department of Business Administration, Utkal University, Bhubaneshwar were the eminent speakers who deliberated on webinar topic. I congratulate CMA Akash Agarwal, Chairman Kota Chapter and his team for the successful conduct of the National Webinar.

PD programme by Bangalore Chapter and Mysore Chapter

I along with CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice President attended the Professional Development Programme on the topic "An analysis of the Companies (Amendment) Act 2020" jointly organised by Bangalore Chapter and Mysore Chapter of the Institute on 21st October 2020. CMA (Dr.) P.V.S. Jagan Mohan Rao, Immediate Past President & Advisor of SAFA and former Council Member of the Institute was the "Guest of Honour & Speaker". Participants were immensely benefited with the deliberations.

Webinar organized by WIRC and Ahmedabad Chapter for CMA Students

I along with CMA P Raju Iyer, Vice President of the Institute addressed the CMA Students during the webinar on "Thought process behind online Examination"

organized by the WIRC of the Institute under the Chairmanship of CMA Harshad S Deshpande on 24th October 2020. Another important webinar for the CMA Students was organized by the Ahmedabad Chapter on 31st October 2020 on "CMA Online Exam – Welcome to the New Normal". I along with CMA P Raju Iyer, Vice President, CMA Balwinder Singh, Immediate Past President, CMA Ashwin G. Dalwadi, Chairman, IT and CAASB and CMA Ashish Bhavsar, Secretary WIRC of the Institute addressed the students to clarify their doubts on the online examinations to be held in December 2020.

Webinar by Noida Chapter

I attended a webinar organized by the Noida Chapter on the theme "Building Costing System for Better Decision Making" on 31st October 2020. Shri Pankaj Singh – Hon'ble MLA, Noida graced the event as the 'Guest of Honour' and CMA R. Parvathy was the resource person. The session was immensely helpful for the members in understanding the importance of building costing system for better decision making.

I now present a brief summary of the activities of various Departments/Committees/Boards of the Institute, in addition to those detailed above:

BOARD OF ADVANCED STUDIES & RESEARCH

I am pleased to share that the Board of Advanced Studies & Research has announced online admission to its 4th Bach of "Certificate Course in Data Analytics for Finance Professionals" and 1st Batch of Certificate Course in Advanced Business Excel for Finance Professionals [with Microsoft Certification]".

Besides, online live classes for 1st & 2nd Batches of "Certificate Course in Data Analytics for Finance Professionals", "Executive Diploma in Business Valuation", "Certificate Course in Arbitration" and revisionary class for 1st Batch of SAP are being conducted on regular basis to facilitate and train the participants with the intricacies of the subject matter.

The Board of Advanced Studies & Research organized a Virtual National Seminar on "Forensic Audit & Fraud Detection" on 3rd October 2020. I had the opportunity to inaugurate the virtual event. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. G Jagan Mohan, General Manager, Central Fraud Monitoring Cell, Reserve Bank of India and the welcome address was delivered by CMA Debasish Mitra, Chairman, Board of Advanced Studies & Research. CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice President summed up the whole session. Speakers at the technical sessions were CMA Neeraj Aarora, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India, Special Public Prosecutor with NIA and CA Chetan Dalal, CEO, Leading Investigation Specialist Organization. The vote of thanks was offered by CMA Dr. D.P. Nandy, Sr. Director of the Institute.

CORPORATE LAWS COMMITTEE

Corporate Laws Committee of the Institute organized a WEBINT on 'Companies Amendment Act 2020' on 3rd October 2020. We are grateful to CS Makarand Lele, Government Nominee to the Council of the Institute and Past President, ICSI for kindly agreeing to be the 'Guest of Honour and Speaker' to address the participants on the "Companies Amendment Act 2020 and other latest updates". I had the opportunity to share my views on Companies Amendment Act 2020. CMA P Raju Iyer, Vice President, CMA Balwinder Singh, Immediate Past President, CMA (Dr.) Ashish P. Thatte, Chairman, Corporate Laws Committee also delivered their special addresses on the topic.

Chairman Corporate Laws Committee started the year with a welcome initiative of 9 days 9 session series in form of Webints which were an instant success with the members and other professionals. The WEBINT on various innovative topics on corporate laws taken by CS Makarand Lele, Government Nominee, CMA Neeraj D. Joshi, Council member, CMA L. D. Pawar, Co-opted member of the Committee, CMA Dr. Gopalakrishnan Raju, CS A. Sekar, CS Divya Abhishek and CS Meghna Shah were well appreciated by the various stakeholders of the Institute

The Corporate Laws Committee has taken a step forward in releasing the first edition of e-bulletin as **CMA Corporate Connect**. The E-bulletin contains articles on subjects penned by the eminent speakers/ professionals. It also covers the recent updates on corporate laws which will be of great importance to our members and students. I congratulate the Chairman and all members of Corporate Laws Committee including Government Nominees for taking this excellent initiative.

DIRECTORATE OF CAT

My Council colleague CMA H. Padmanabhan, Chairman-CAT has been doing exceptional work in spearheading the Institute's endeavours to be engaged with the Members and Students of the Institute through his initiative of holding WEBINTs during these trying times, when regular seminars, conferences, workshops and classes are not allowed to take place. The contribution of CMA H. Padmanabhan in making WEBINT a grand success will always be remembered in the history of the Institute. CAT conducted several WEBINT programs during the month of October, 2020 on the topics such as IND AS 41 - Agriculture, IND AS 102 - Share Based Payment, IND AS 115 - Revenue from Contract with Customers, IND AS 116 - Leases and Life & Work Management. The Committee also organized a WEBINT Series in association with AAT Board on all Mondays for 10 days starting 26th October onwards.

The Committee organized WEBINTs for the CMA Students on IND AS 41 - Agriculture - Section A - Study

Note – 1, IND AS 102 - Share Based Payment - Section D - Study Note – 6, IND AS 115 - Revenue from Contract with Customers, IND AS 116 – Leases and CMA Final - Paper 17 - CFR - Corporate Financial Reporting.

Notification - CAT Level II Assessment Tests -November 2020

CAT Directorate issued Notification for the CAT Level II Assessment Tests. These tests will be available at the Institute's website till December 31, 2020. I urge students, who have already passed Foundation Course (Entry Level) Part-I examination, to take up these tests. I also wish students all the best for exams.

CAT Course under Skill India

CAT Directorate is continuously working to bridge the skill gap in India through its CAT course and working towards running it under skill development programmes run by the Central Government of India and many State Governments. The Directorate wrote to the Chief Ministers & Skill Development Ministers of all the State Governments about CAT course highlighting the recognition of CAT course from BFSI Sector Skill Council of India.

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you that the CAT Directorate is receiving positive responses from many states. I sincerely thank CMA H. Padmanabhan, Chairman and all members of the Committee for putting their sincere efforts and execution for the growth of the CAT Course.

DIRECTORATE OF STUDIES

I am pleased to share that the Directorate of Studies has introduced 'World Class Techno-Skill Development Training' facilities for the CMA Intermediate Students with SAP Certification, Microsoft Certification, Cambridge University Certification and E-Filing to upskill the students for better employability and to groom them as industry-ready professionals. The Training & Placement wing of the Directorate of Studies has already initiated an exhaustive online 'Train-The-Trainers' Program to create an effective resource pool of faculty members in the domain of SAP and other Soft-Skill Training areas for imparting skill training to the students. Further, the Directorate of Studies has taken the following initiatives during the month of October 2020:

An exclusive 'Online Mock Test Platform' with a sufficient number of exercises as per the CMA Curriculum has been developed to facilitate CMA Students for practicing various MCQ and descriptive type problems on a real-time basis in view of forthcoming online examinations. Students can view their score, correct answers, timing, and dummy result sheet after the test is over. This

- facility has been extended to the Foundation, Intermediate and Final Level Students.
- Subject-wise Online Classes have been conducted on a regular basis to make students well-prepared before the forthcoming examinations.
- Online campus placement activities are being organized on a regular basis.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CPD COMMITTEE

I am pleased to inform you that the Professional Development Directorate is organizing the Online Mandatory Capacity Building Training (e-MCBT) for new COP holders for upgrading the skills and knowledge of CMA Practitioners and enhance their professional Competence & skill benefitting in the competitive environment.

This training is designed to sensitize the new comers with the practical aspects of the allied areas of practice. I request the practicing Cost Accountants who have obtained Certificate of Practice (CoP) w.e.f., 1st February 2019 to register for e-MCBT.

PD Directorate sent representation letters by mail to various organizations for inclusion of cost accountants for providing professional services. I am happy to inform you that on Institute's representation, State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), Urban Development & Housing Department, Jharkhand relaxed the eligibility condition of C&AG empanelment for Cost Accountant Firms.

Please visit the PD Portal for Tenders/EOIs during the month of October 2020, where Cost Accountants are required in Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited, The Urban Development and Housing Department, Madhya Pradesh PaschimKshetra Vidyut Vitran Corporation Limited, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited, State Bank of India, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) etc.

Professional Development and CPD Committee along with Corporate Laws & Accounting Technicians Committee organized webint on "IND AS 102: Share Based Payment" on 11th October, 2020. Many Practicing Cost Accountants, Insolvency Professionals, Registered Valuers and GST Practitioners participated in the webint.

During the month around hundred webinars were organised by the different committees of the Institute, Regional Councils and Chapters on the topics of professional relevance and importance. We are sure our members are immensely benefited with the deliberations in the sessions.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The International Affairs Committee under the chairmanship of CMA Vijender Sharma, Council Member of the Institute organized a Webint jointly with Management Accounting Committee on the topic "Why the Management Accounting Profession should play a lead role in Integrated Reporting" on 8th October 2020. CMA H. Padmanabhan, Council Member hosted the WEBINT, Mr. Stathis Gould, Director, Advocacy, IFAC was our eminent resource person on the topic and CMA A.N. Raman, Former President, SAFA was the moderator of the Webint which was well appreciated by the participants.

Meeting of SAFA Board

I attended the 64th meeting of South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Board on 3rd October 2020 through video conferencing. This was the special meeting of the SAFA Board to deliberate and finalize the amendments in the Constitution of SAFA.

TECHNICAL CELL

The Technical Cell of the Institute headed by CMA Chandra Wadhwa, Former President of the Institute held its first web meeting of the term 2020-21 on 16th October 2020. I had the opportunity to attend the meeting and participate in the discussions. The meeting was very intense and fruitful. I congratulate the Chairman and Members of the Cell for holding very constructive discussion on each and every agenda item during the meeting. Among other agenda items, the Cell approved the release of Exposure Draft of Guidance Note on Local / Indigenous Content in Manufacturing / Production & Supply of Goods and Services, for public comments. Accordingly the Exposure Draft was uploaded on the Technical Cell webpage and also sent to members through bulk email. I urge the members to go through the same and offer their suggestions to further improve the draft guidance note. Last date for sending the suggestions / comments is 12th November 2020. The draft shall be finalised by the Technical Cell in the light of the suggestions received from the members and the stakeholders. The exposure draft is available at https:// icmai.in/icmai/Technical Cell/LICMP.php

TAX RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

This Dussehra was celebrated by TRD by conducting a Webint Session with Eminent Tax Expert Dr. Girish Ahuja on Faceless Assessment and Benami Property Transaction Act. It was a wonderfully conducted and very knowledge enriching session. Apart from this, another webint was conducted on E-Invoicing: Understanding the System & FAQ where Shri Suresh Meti, Technical Director, NIC and Shri Ravi Kiran Edara,

Vice – President, Goods and Services Network where the Chief Guests who deliberated on the topic. In addition, webinars were conducted on the topics like (i) Matching Concept under GST, (ii) Interplay between GST and Customs, (iii) Benefits for Senior Citizens under IT Act 1961 and (iv) Section 206C(1H) TCS provision on sale of Goods which would have surely benefitted our members. Recommendations for E-invoicing Mechanism and inclusion of the Cost Accountants in GSTN-10 Certification have been submitted to Shri Yogendra Garg, Principal Commissioner (GST), CBIC. The Tax Bulletin's 72nd and 73rd issues have been released. Classes for all the Taxation Courses- (i) Certificate Course on GST, (ii) Advanced Certificate Course on GST, (iii) Certificate Course on Filing of Returns, (iv) Certificate Course on TDS are going on seamlessly. Admissions for all the Taxation Courses are open till 15th November 2020 for the ensuing batches. Apart from these, in D.G Vaishnav College of Chennai, Crash Course on GST has been completed and exam had also been conducted.

BANKING, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

I am happy to state that the BFSI Committee in collaboration with National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), an educational initiative of SEBI, has started the 1st batch on the Certificate Course on Investment Management (Level 1: Stock Selection and Trading in Equity), the inauguration of which took place on 18th October 2020 under the august presence of Shri S.K. Mohanty, Director of NISM and Whole time Member of SEBI, I along with my Council colleague CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman of BFSI Committee, who was instrumental in initiating this collaboration, were present. The inaugural session was also graced by Shri Sunil Jayawant Kadam, Registrar of NISM, Dr. V R Narasimham, Dean & Professor of Practice (School for Regulatory Studies and Supervision (SRSS) & School for Corporate Governance (SCG) of NISM along with CMA Dr. Latha Chari, Associate Professor, (School for Securities Information and Research (SSIR), NISM. The online classes started with a maximum capacity of 50 numbers. I am extremely happy to share that the registration for the 2nd batch of the course has already begun and I request members and students to take advantage of this collaborative initiative between ICAI & NISM and register for the course in large numbers.

BFSI organized a WEBINT on Onshore and Offshore Market for Indian Rupee on 12th October, 2020 which was attended by members and representatives from various financial institutions and Banks. The admission for the 2nd batch of Certificate courses on banking viz. Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks, Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks and Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking has also commenced after overwhelming response was received

for the admissions of the 1st Batch. These courses, it is expected, will go a long way in the capacity building and skill enhancement of the members.

REGIONAL COUNCIL AND CHAPTERS COORDINATION COMMITTEE

I am happy to note that the committee under the Chairmanship of CMA (Dr.) K ChA V S N Murthy has initiated efforts to further improve coordination activities between all our Regions and Chapters with headquarters.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The Management Accounting Committee under the Chairmanship of CMA Neeraj D. Joshi has successfully organized a WEBINT on the 'Cost Management through Quality Systems' on 16th October 2020 for the benefit of members and students of the Institute. I thank our eminent speakers Mr. V. Vijayaraghavan, Principal Consultant and Trainer, TQM Quest Consultancy Services and CMA R Venkataramani, Director, Westcott Electricals Private Limited for their detailed deliberations. I had the opportunity to share my views on the topic. CMA P Raju Iyer, Vice President and CMA Neeraj D. Joshi, Chairman, Management Accounting Committee also delivered their special addresses on the topic.

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

I congratulate and welcome all the new 156 Associate members who were granted new membership and 48 Associate members who were upgraded to Fellowship during the month of October 2020.

I am happy to note that under the leadership of CMA (Dr.) V Murali, Chairman of the Members Facilities Committee, these new memberships were granted in 4 batches even during festivities in the month of October 2020.

MEMBERS IN INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

The Members in Industry Committee jointly with the Board of Advanced Studies & Research under the Chairmanship of CMA Debasish Mitra organized a 2 Day CMA e-Connect Virtual Seminar on "Case Studies and Intricacies in GSTR Annual Return (GSTR9)" on 17th & 18th October 2020. The virtual event was inaugurated by me along with CMA P Raju Iyer, Vice President of the Institute. The welcome address was delivered by CMA Debasish Mitra and a special address was delivered by CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman, Indirect Tax Committee & BFSI Committee. The Chief Guest of the virtual seminar was CMA Amit Sarkar, Sr. Director, Deloitte Haskins & Sells. The keynote speaker for the technical sessions on both the days was CA Pratik Shah, GST Consultant. The vote of thanks was offered by CMA Arup S Bagchi, Sr. Director and CMA Dr. D.P. Nandy,

Sr. Director of the Institute. The event was attended by a good number of CMA members and Final level students.

ICMAI REGISTERED VALUERS ORGANISATION (RVO)

I am pleased to share that ICMAI RVO has taken the following initiatives during the month of October 2020:

- 4th and 5th One-day Online "CPE program" to grant "Certificate of Practice"
- 4th Online Batch for Land & Building
- 4th Online Batch for Plant & Machinery
- Saturday Webinar on regular basis

INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONAL AGENCY (IPA) OF THE INSTITUTE

Insolvency Professional Agency of the Institute has organized preparatory Education Course for Limited Insolvency Examination (Virtual) during 3rd to 5th October 2020, Master Class on Personal Guarantors to Corporate Debtors (Virtual) from 16th to 18th October 2020 and 30 Hours Certificate Course on Insolvency Bankruptcy Code (Virtual) from 31st October 2020 to 6th November 2020 for the professional development of its members.

I wish prosperity and happiness to members, students and their family on the occasion of Diwali, Kali Puja, Laxmi Puja, Bhaiya Duj, Children's Day, Chhath Puja and Guru Nanak Birthday and wish them success in all of their endeavours.

Stay safe and healthy!

With warm regards,

CMA Biswarup Basu

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November 1, 2020