

CMA Biswarup Basu

President

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India

"Education is the manifestation of perfection present already in man. Divinity is the manifestation of the religion already in man."

- Swami Vivekananda

My Dear Professional Colleagues,

CMA Qualification Equivalent to PG-Degree as recognized by UGC

am happy to inform the members and students of the Institute that the University Grants Commission (UGC), on the basis of representation made by the Institute, has recognized the Cost Accountant (CMA) qualification as equivalent to postgraduate degree for appearing in UGC-National Eligibility Test (NET), conducted for determining the eligibility of Assistant Professorship, Junior Research Fellowship or both, for Indian Universities and Colleges. This recognition makes Cost Accountants eligible to write the NET and to pursue higher studies and would also facilitate widespread international acceptance of CMA qualification.

Inauguration of Patna Saheb Chapter

I am delighted to share that I inaugurated the Patna Saheb Chapter on 7th March 2021. The inauguration event was graced by CMA Balwinder Singh, Immediate Past President, CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman, BFSI Committee & Indirect Taxation Committee, CMA H. Padmanabhan, Chairman, Committee for Accounting Technicians, CMA (Dr.) K Ch A V S N Murthy, Chairman, RCCC Committee, CMA Kunal Banerjee and CMA Amal Kumar Das, Past Presidents, CMA Ashis Banerjee, Chairman,

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ

EIRC and CMA Pallab Bhattacharya, Past Chairman EIRC. The Chapter marked this auspicious occasion by organizing a Seminar on Enterprise Governance through Cost Management. I congratulate the members and students of the Patna Saheb Chapter on this occasion.

MoU with Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher **Education & Research [SRIHER]**

Our Institute has entered into an MoU with Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research [SRIHER] on 10th February 2021. The MOU has been entered into with the objective of promoting excellence in the area of Academic, Research and Training in the niche areas related to the institution's specialisation in Hospital and Healthcare Management. The major focus of research activities shall be on Healthcare and Hospital Management, The Institute with the help of the University shall release technical materials, guidance notes, monographs for the benefit of our Members.

MoU with City Colleges in Chennai

I am happy to state that our Institute has entered into MoU with the following colleges in Chennai for joint collaboration in offering academic & professional development programmes, research activities and industry – academia partnership.

- The New College [Autonomous], Royapettah, Chennai – 12th March 2021
- Guru Nanak College [Autonomous], Velachery, Chennai - 12th March 2021
- Shrimathi Devkunvar Nanalal Bhatt Vaishnav College for Women [Autonomous], Chromepet, Chennai – 16th March 2021.

The above MoU's shall strive towards excellence and foster academic, research insights for the students, faculty members and our members.

I thank the efforts of our Vice President - CMA P. Raju Iyer & CMA Rakesh Shankar Ravisankar for materialising the MOU's.

CEP Programme by Durgapur Chapter

I am pleased to inform that I along with my Council Colleague CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay attended the CEP Programme on "Financial Independence through Financial Smartness" organized by the Durgapur Chapter on 20th March 2021 at CMA Bhawan, Durgapur. Dr. Baneswar Kapasi, HOD, Department of Commerce, Kazi Nazrul University was the Speaker. The event was also graced by CMA Ashis Banerjee, Chairman EIRC and CMA Arundhati Basu, Vice Chairperson EIRC of the Institute.

Annual Seminar by Asansol Chapter

I am pleased to share that I was invited at the Annual Seminar organized by the Asansol Chapter on the theme "Cost Leadership in Pandemic Times" on 21st March 2021 at Asansol. CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman BFSI Committee & Indirect Taxation Committee of the Institute, CMA Raja Ghosh, AGM, West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited and CMA Sanjay Singh, Sr. Manager (F)/TS to D(F), CCL, Ranchi were the speakers for the seminar. The event was also graced by Past Presidents of the Institute CMA Amal Kumar Das and CMA Kunal Banerjee. I congratulate CMA Chinmoy Bhattacharyya, Chairman and other members of the Managing Committee of Asansol Chapter for their efforts in organizing the event successfully.

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

The Board of Advanced Studies & Research of the Institute, in association with Tezpur University and NFCG, organized an Orientation Programme on 'Corporate Governance under The Companies Act, 2013 & SEBI (LODR) 2015 on 12th March 2021 through online mode. More than 3500 participants including students, members, faculty members and other professionals viewed this event online so far. The following eminent personalities were present in this event who had deliberated:

Dr. M. Ariz Ahammed, IAS, Principal Secretary, Public Enterprises Department, Government of Assam, Prof. Vinod Kumar Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Registrar of Companies, Guwahati with Additional Charge of OL, Guwahati, CMA P. Raju Iyer, Vice President, CMA Balwinder Singh, Immediate Past President, Shri B. Paul Muktieh, Chairman and Managing Director, NEDFI, CMA B. B. Goyal, Former Additional Chief Adviser (Cost), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman, BFSI & Indirect Taxation Committee, CMA Debasish Mitra, Chairman, BoASR and MI Committee, Prof. Subhrangshu S Sarkar, Professor, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University, Shri Vijay Kapur, Member, Board of Studies, Dept of Commerce, Tezpur University, Shri Raj Kumar More, Director, Torsa Machines Limited, Prof. Papori Baruah, Dean, School of Management Sciences, Tezpur University, Prof. Chandan Goswami, HoD, Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University, CMA (Dr.) D. P. Nandy, Sr. Director of the Institute, CMA Rana Bose, Chairman, Guwahati Chapter of the Institute, CS Biman Debnath, Vice Chairman EIRC of ICSI, CS Amitava Banerjee, Visiting Faculty, Tezpur University, CMA (Dr.) B B Mishra, Finance Officer, Tezpur University.

CORPORATE LAWS COMMITTEE

The Corporate Laws Committee strives to make a continuous endeavour to upskill the members and other professionals in the areas of Corporate Laws. In furtherance of this vision, the Chairman of the Committee CMA (Dr.) Ashish P. Thatte organised webinars on topics like latest Amendments in

CSR, Mythological reference, Niti Shastra and Corporate Governance and S/4 HANA Finance new era in SAP. The Committee remains committed to serve the Institute in the area and domain assigned to it for the remaining year by organising webinars etc. for the professionals at large.

COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD

I am pleased to inform you that the Cost Accounting Standards Board of the Institute after analysing the impact of the pandemic conditions in Financial Year 2020-21 has issued an Advisory for the treatment of various elements of costs in compilation of Cost Records, Cost Statements & Annexures to Cost Audit Report for the year 2020-21. The Advisory is applicable for the Accounting Period ended 31st March 2021. I congratulate CMA Balwinder Singh, Chairman of the CASB and other members of the Board for issuance of the advisory at an appropriate time.

In case you need to seek advice on any matters connected with the preparation & certification of Cost Statements as per CRA-3 of the Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules 2014, please refer the matter to the Technical Cell of the Institute at technicalcell@icmai.in

The advisory is available at https://www.icmai.in/upload/CASB/CASB Advisory April 2021.pdf

DIRECTORATE OF CAT

WEBINT

The CAT Directorate continued its streak of providing virtual learning through the WEBINT on IND AS for the benefit of students and members of the Institute.

I would like to thank prolific resource person of this series CMA (Dr.) Gopalakrishna Raju, for his continuous support and making this series a grand success.

The CAT Directorate rendered full support to the WEBINT organised by the Institute to celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March, 2021 on the topic "Choose to Challenge-Life and Work Management", wherein I had a chance to offer the Presidential address. The highlight of the program was that it was handled by CMA Women Family Members. I was delighted to see that the program garnered a good response.

I congratulate CMA H. Padmanabhan, Chairman-Committee for Accounting Technicians for his continuous efforts in organising these WEBINTs, the popularity of which have gathered steam ever since our lives have been shifted to the virtual mode in the era of COVID-19 situation.

CAT Meetings and Development

I am glad to share that the delegation of CAT had a meeting with Shri Deependra Singh Kushwah I.A.S (Commissioner & CEO Maharashtra State Skill Development Society) at MSSDS office in Mumbai, on 1st March, 2021 and submitted a proposal to implement the CAT Course. If the proposal gets implemented in the state of Maharashtra, a huge number of youth will be benefited with such a high quality course.

I congratulate CMA H. Padmanabhan and the officials of team CAT for their continuous efforts in the promotion of the CAT course.

DIRECTORATE OF STUDIES

Students' Admission

It is my pleasure to share that during the unprecedented pandemic situation the Institute has achieved tremendous growth in its admission in all the three levels to the tune of approximately 56,000 students in the year 2020-21. I would like to congratulate all the newly admitted students to join our CMA fraternity and shape your professional career in the right direction.

O Placements

I feel elated to inform that many qualified CMAs of December 2019 Batch have been well placed through various campus placement initiatives of the Institute during the year 2020 – 2021. The following PSUs, MNCs and other reputed companies extended their cooperation in absorbing our students in their esteemed organizations: RINL, NMDC, REC, MECON, TATA Motors, ITC, CITCO, Wipro, Bajaj Auto, Philips, Vedanta, TRL Krosaki, Conseroglobal, Schneider Electric, Dupont, Randstad, Tax Connect, etc.

We are going to conduct our next campus placement drives for the qualified CMAs of December 2020 Batch from April 2021 onwards. I earnestly request that all of our esteemed members and well wishers to extend their support as always to make this event a grand success.

O CMA National Online Business Quiz - 2021

I am pleased to share that the Directorate of Studies and Board of Advanced Studies & Research of the Institute in association with The Hindu Group have launched 'CMA National Online Business Quiz - 2021' successfully. The Online Registration link [https://forms.thehindu.co.in/ICMAI/] will be open till 30th April 2021. This online quiz contest has already attracted huge registration across the country from a cross-sectional audience. I personally urge all the students and members to join this quiz contest to make this event a grand success.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I wish to inform the members that the International Affairs Committee under the Chairmanship of CMA Vijender Sharma is exploring the possibilities of associating with UAE Accountants and Auditors Association for the recognition of Cost Accountant (CMA) qualification for joining UAECA Membership so that the members of our Institute can also become part of a large professional community in the UAE. In this regard, I along with CMA Vijender Sharma and other council members had a virtual meeting with Mr. Akram Abdus Samad, Head of Technical Development, UAE-AAA on 22nd March 2021. Both the professional bodies are keen to take the matter ahead for the mutual benefits and develop the profession.

BANKING, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND INSURANCE **COMMITTEE**

"Aide Memoire" on Lending to Micro, Small and **Medium Enterprises Sector**

We are proud to state that the MSME Book titled

"Aide-Mémoire" on Lending to MSME Sector Enterprises (Registration to Restructuring) published by the Institute provides Complete Knowledge/Understanding of 'Financial Requirements', 'Business Projections', Sources and Uses of Funds, and Why the MSME Entitles are facing 'Liquidity Problem', Scope for Re-structuring which is vitally important for IPs / IRPs / RPs in the Pre-Pack Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons classified as MSME as an Ordinance was Promulgated to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) on 4th April, 2021.

As per the Ordinance, it is considered necessary to urgently address the Specific requirements of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) relating to the Resolution of their Insolvency, due to the unique nature of their Businesses and Simpler Corporate Structures.

You may collect a copy of this priced publication by placing an online order at https://eicmai.in/booksale bfsi/Home.aspx

O Conduct of Webinars:

During the month of March 2021, the Committee conducted 3 more webinars on "Complexities in Life Insurance" on 13th March where the speaker was Shri P. Venugopal, Chair Professor, Life, National Insurance Academy, "Opportunities to CMAs in cloud computing" and "Explore the Opportunities, DDU-GKY: Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameena Kaushalya Yogna" by CMA (Dr.) P. Siva Rama Prasad, Former AGM of SBI on 14th & 28th March respectively.

Admission of the 3rd Batch of Certificate Courses for Banking and start of the 2nd batch of Certificate Courses

The BFSI department has again started admission for the three Certificate Courses namely Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks, Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks and Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking and I congratulate & welcome the members who are enrolling for these courses being conducted for Capacity Building and Skill Development.

The 2nd batch classes for Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks for 30 hours' duration which had started on 9th January, 2021 concluded on 28th February, 2021 and the examination was held on 1st March, 2021. Similarly, the 2nd batch Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks for 50 hours' duration which was started on 26th December, 2020 concluded on 20th March, 2021. The examination for the course was held on 21st March, 2021. For both the above courses the certificates were distributed to the candidates. The 2nd batch of Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking which had started on 16th January, 2021 for 50 hours would be concluding on 10th April, 2021 and the examination for the course is scheduled on 11th April, 2021 for which I convey my best wishes to all the participants.

O Certificate Course on Investment Management in association with NISM

The BFSI department had concluded the 3rd batch of Investment Management (Level-I) on 14th March, 2021. The Level-II of the 1st batch had concluded with the distribution of certificates. The Level-III 1st batch admission also concluded

on 31st March, 2021 and the next batch of classes are scheduled to commence from April, 2021. The 4th batch of Level-I classes are scheduled to commence from 4th April, 2021. We have started the admissions for 5th batch of Level-I and members and the students are requested to take the opportunity in taking registration in the course of capital markets.

Annual ICAI National Awards -Essay Contest for Bankers:

The BFSI Committee has organised an annual ICAI National Awards essay contest for bankers and I call upon all members and students working in the banking sector to whole heartedly participate in the event. The topic of the essay competition is "Digital Banking and Inclusive Growth". The winners would be felicitated and honoured by the Institute with a medal and a certificate and would be presented by a luminary in the banking field. Details of the event have been published by the BFSI department.

• Representation letters for inclusion of CMAs:

The BFSI Directorate has represented to various authorities and employers for the inclusion of CMAs in the BFSI sector whenever such a scope has come to the notice of the Institute.

Observance of MSME Month:

BFSI is organizing April 2021 as MSME month with a series of online national, international and local events covering the MSME sector. The details of the programmes are available in the BFSI portal on the Institutes website and I am happy to share that the concluding national webinar will be held on 25th April, 2021 on the theme "Way Forward for Value Addition to and by MSME Sector" where Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest. The international webinar is also scheduled to be held in association with the London Chapter of Cost Accountants on 22nd April, 2021. The Regional Councils and Chapters are the extended arms of the Institute and we hope that they will join us in the celebrations and observance of MSME Month by their active participation in the said webinars and also by way of conducting at local levels throughout the Month of April 2021. Regional Councils and Chapters are requested to send the report of such observance of MSME Month for incorporation in the Management Accountant Journal.

1st Hybrid Seminar organized by the BFSI Department

The 1st Hybrid Seminar on the theme Credit Offtake: Challenges and Strategies was organized on 24th March, 2021 at J.N. Bose Auditorium, Headquarters of the Institute at Kolkata. The Seminar was the 1st physical programme conducted by the BFSI Department in the year 2021 which was also streamed online where BEML Limited was the event partner. CMA Suraj Prakash, Director (Finance), BEML attended in person and addressed the gathering and all those who attended online through webcasting in the YouTube channel of the Institute. The other speakers on the occasion were CMA (Dr.) P. Siva Rama Prasad, Former AGM of SBI; CMA Jyoti P. Gadia, MD of Resurgent India Ltd.; CMA Sunil P. Sathe, MD & CEO of

Thane Janata Sahakari Bank and Shri B. Rajkumar, Advisor of BFSI Department and Former Dy. Chief Executive of Indian Banking Association. I attended the Seminar along with CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, Chairman of BFSI Committee and Shri Ashwin G. Dalwadi, Council Member. The event was also graced by Past Presidents, CMA Harijiban Banerjee and CMA Amal Kumar Das and CMA Avijit Goswami, Former Council Member also attended the seminar.

MEMBERS FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Members are kindly aware that membership fees for the year 2021-22 are due from 1st April 2021 along with CoP renewal fee for members in practice. I request all members to avail the Institute's online facilities for such renewal and payment of fees from the comfort of their place of convenience.

As a ready reference, the important links are given hereunder

For online payment of membership fees only:

- https://eicmai.in/MMS/Login.aspx?mode=EU (with login)
- https://eicmai.in/MMS/PublicPages/UserRegistration/ Login-WP.aspx (without login)

For online renewal of CoP for FY 2021-2022: https://eicmai.in/MMS/Login.aspx?mode=EU

For advisory for renewal of CoP for FY 2021-22:

https://eicmai.in/external/PublicPages/WebsiteDisplay/docs/Advisory_for_Renewal_of_COP_2021-22.pdf

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CPD COMMITTEE

I would like to congratulate the Chairman, Professional Development & CPD Committee for successfully conducting the 2nd batch of online Mandatory Capacity Building Training (e-MCBT) on during 6th February 2021 to 14th March 2021. The deliberations in the technical sessions and interactive sessions by eminent speakers across the country were highly appreciated by the participants.

I urge the practitioners who have acquired CoP on and after 1st February 2019 to register for the 3rd batch of MCBT in adherence to Notification F.No.CWA/21/2019 dated 1st February 2019 and subsequent corrigendum dated 8th March, 2019. We look forward to have more participation in this batch.

PD Directorate submitted representations to various organizations for inclusion of cost accountants for providing professional services. I am pleased to inform you that on Institute's representation, the Income Tax Department considered Cost Accountant Firms as an authorized professional for E-Return Intermediaries to electronically file Income Tax returns under the electronic Furnishing of Return of Income Scheme, 2007 at NSDL website. Further, on the Institute's representation, General Insurance Corporation of India considered Cost Accountants Firm for appointment as Internal Auditors for Reinsurance Operations of GIC Re.

Members may please visit the PD Portal for Tenders/EOIs during the month of March 2021, where Cost Accountants are required in Airports Authority of India, Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar, State Tax Department

Uttarakhand, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Municipal Corporation Abohar, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Department of Trade & Taxes, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP), Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), National Aids Control Society (NACO), District Health & Family Welfare Society (DH&FWS), Jhajjar, Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, New Mangalore port trust (NMPT), Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MahaGenco) etc.

Professional Development & CPD Committee organised a Webint on "Overview of Forensic Audit" on 18th March 2021. The Committee associated with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a webinar on "QRMP Scheme, Dynamic QR Code, Compulsory Quoting of HSN/ SAC for Supply of Goods & Services Issues and Way Forward" on 26th March 2021. The Committee also associated with IPA of Institute of Cost Accountants of India for the seminar on "Role of Insolvency Professionals under IBC, 2016" on 19th March 2021.

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

REGIONAL COUNCIL & CHAPTERS **COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

The Committee under the Chairmanship of CMA (Dr.) K Ch A V S N Murthy in association with Buddha CEO Quantum Foundation conducted a webinar on "Online Guided Meditation Programme" which was attended by members and students on 29th March 2021. I along with CMA P Raju Iyer, Vice President and CMA (Dr.) K Ch A V S N Murthy also addressed the participants who were taken through an online meditation experience by Shri Chandra Pulamarasetti, Founder - Buddha CEO Quantum Foundation. The programme was well received by the participants.

The Committee has recommended to the Council for the constitution of one more new Chapters and the name change of another chapter, the details of which will be published in shortly by way of Notification. The Committee has also initiated steps for suitable training of employees at the chapter level so that students and member services at the chapter level are further improved across the country.

TAX RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

I would like to start by congratulating the Tax Research Department for successfully conducting a workshop on "Foreign Trade Policy and Procedures, and role of DGFT (with Special Emphasis on Potential Areas for CMAs)" from 24th to 26th March 2021. Shri Sanjeev Nandwani, Former Additional DGFT had been the faculty for the session which has been highly appreciated by 100 plus participants. Gaining momentum from this another 3 Days Workshop on the topic - Customs Policy and Procedures (With special emphasis on potential areas for CMAs) from 5th to 7th April 2021, is being organised wherein Shri Saikat Das, Supdt, Port is the faculty.

Classes for Certificate Course on GST. Advanced Certificate

Course on GST, Certificate Course on Filing of Returns. Certificate Course on TDS, Advanced Course on GST Audit & Assessment Procedure and Advanced Course on Income Tax Assessment and Appeal are on the verge of completion. In KCLAS College, Kerala, GST Course for College and University Students have been conducted for 51 students and the exam has also been conducted successfully on 13th March 2021. This has been appreciated by the students and the faculties of the college. Webinars have also been conducted on the topics Ease of Handling Litigation in GST and Issues in deduction of Business Expenses.

ICMAI REGISTERED VALUERS ORGANISATION (RVO)

I am pleased to share that ICMAI RVO has organized the Master Class on Valuation on 2nd & 6th March 2021, 12th Online Batch of 50 hrs Valuation course on Securities or Financial Assets Class from 5th to 14th March 2021, Webinar on Perspectives on Valuation on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2021, Program on Enhancing 'Professional' Effectiveness on 10th March 2021, Master Series Case Studies on Valuation on 14th March 2021, Master Class on Best Practices in Valuation on 17th March 2021, Professional Development Program on What is Valuation all About on 20th March 2021, Master Class on "Myths of Valuation" on 23rd March 2021, Master Class on "All About Fair Valuation" on 26th March 2021, Master Class on Demystifying the Essence of "International Valuation Standards" on 28th March 2021 and 7th Online Batch of 50 hrs Valuation course on Land and Building Asset Class and Plant and Machinery Asset Class from 26th March 2021 to 4th April 2021.

INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONAL AGENCY (IPA) OF THE INSTITUTE

The Insolvency Professional Agency of the Institute has taken various professional development initiatives during the month for the professional development of its members. Pre – Registration Educational Course from 2nd to 8th March 2021, Master Class on Cross Border Insolvency from 5th to 7th March 2021, Seminar on Role of Insolvency Professional under IBC jointly with the Institute on 19th March 2021, Certificate Course on Leadership and Management Skills on 20th & 21st March 2021 and Webinar on Information Utility jointly with NeSL on 15th, 23rd & 30th March 2021.

I wish prosperity and happiness to members, students and their family on the occasion of Good Friday, Vaisakhi & Ram Navami and pray for the success in all of their endeavour.

Stay safe and healthy!

With warm regards,

Biswamp Bose

CMA Biswarup Basu

April 4, 2021