

ICAI Celebrates Tradition of Professional Excellence, Launches New Initiatives on its 63rd Foundation Day



Starting with a handful of 1,700 members, today, the strength of the Chartered Accountant fraternity has grown to 1,73,517 members. On the education front, we began with mere 259 students and today has almost 8.47 lakh students as part of the ICAI. Recalling the inception of a tradition of professional excellence that started in 1949, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) celebrated its 63rd Foundation Day on 1st July, 2011. The main function was organised at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where the regulator of the Accountancy Profession in India took stock of its progress, growth and service to the nation, and launched various new initiatives and value added services for accounting fraternity in the country. Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Past President of the ICAI CA. Rameshwar Thakur was the Chief Guest of the very well attended function. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha CA. K. Rahman Khan and Minister of State, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Shri R. P. N. Singh were Guests of Honour. Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Shri D. K. Mittal delivered a special address. The following is a brief report of the function organised to mark the 'CA Day'.



▲ Shri T. Karthikeyan

At the outset **Shri T. Karthikeyan, Secretary, ICAI** welcomed the large gathering that included dignitaries, members and students of accountancy profession and other guests. In his address, Shri Karthikeyan said "1st July has a great significance for the Accountancy Profession in India, as on this day, in the year 1949 the Chartered Accountants Act was passed by Parliament. Every year the Institute celebrates this day as CA Day."



▲ CA. G. Ramaswamy

In his Presidential address, **CA. G. Ramaswamy, President, ICAI**, said: "1st July, is a day for introspection for the CA profession. The profession has made its presence felt dominantly in trade, industry, public administration and every other part of social and economic life. The phenomenal growth in the membership base is a reflection of the confidence and trust which the industry and public at large has in this glorious profession."

He assured that the Institute would continue its endeavours to come up to the expectations of the government and regulators by framing appropriate guidelines/directions for its members to ensure appropriate disclosures in financial information of the industry. Its representation on the various committees of regulators is the manifestation of the trust that the system as a whole reposes in this profession.

The President added: "On this occasion of Foundation day, the institute would rededicate itself to reinforce the values of *excellence, independence and integrity* – the virtues which we imbibe in our professional work. The Occasion definitely gives us a moment to ponder over what we achieved so far as a profession and what we achieved as a member." He shared with the gathering various initiatives launched by the ICAI in the recent past, some major ones of which are as following:

- **Report on Uniform Accounting and Auditing Framework for Political Parties:** The Institute has prepared a format for the disclosure of the entire income and expenditure of political parties. The report on the Uniform Accounting and Auditing Framework for Political Parties has been submitted to the Election Commission. The implementation of the recommendations, by appropriately amending the relevant laws would go a long way in bringing more accountability among the political parties.
- **Group Formed to Address the Issue of Black Money:** In the wake of the ongoing demand from various groups and political parties to bring back the black money stashed in the overseas market, the ICAI has constituted a Group to provide necessary inputs/suggestions on effectively addressing the menace of black money and related issues in view of public interest involved. The inputs/suggestions given by the Group will be submitted to the Government.
- **Chain of Workshops on XBRL:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had mandated certain class of companies to file their financial statements in XBRL format for the year ended 31st March, 2011. In order to educate members on XBRL and providing hands-on training on the process, XBRL India has planned a chain of workshops to be organised at various locations across the country. During the first phase, workshops will be organised to provide training on XBRL filings in selective big cities using the resources of the Information Technology

Training Centres of the Institute. Three leading companies having expertise in XBRL filings will be the knowledge partners for this initiative. This training will help members to understand XBRL, which is emerging as the most popular reporting language across the world.

The President said that for the profession to play a greater role in building the nation, the members need to be trained with the latest IT skills. As the profession is increasingly growing global it is important to equip practising members and CA firms with more IT tools that will in turn increase their efficiency in the global competitive environment.

After his address a number of value-added services namely ICAI Web TV, ICAI Connect, Website for Practitioners and CA Firms, Online Registration Form, ICAI-RoC Software, ICAI-Tax Suite Software, etc. were launched, the details of which have been given in the latter part of this report. On this occasion the following publications were also released:

1. Technical Guide on Audit in Automobile Industry
2. Technical Guide on Expatriates Taxation
3. Economic Impact of Quarterly Reporting



▲ Shri D. K. Mittal



▲ Shri R. P. N. Singh

While delivering the special address, **Shri D. K. Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs** complimented the CA fraternity for having achieved a unique distinction in professional spheres of the country. He said: "The profession in India has reached a distinction of becoming the 2nd largest accounting body and more importantly has earned the trust and confidence of the society at large because of the basic core competence that they possess." He also opined that the ICAI is helping India to win the battle against corruption through ethical governance.

Minister of State, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Shri R. P. N. Singh in his address said: "Accountancy profession is at its threshold. The role of chartered accountants has undergone sea-change and they have become total Business Solution Providers. ICAI, during its sagacious journey of over 62 years, has intensified its focus on emerging social and economic trends in order to raise the profession of accountancy to new heights of excellence."

He further added that "chartered accountants will rise to the occasion and bring further glory to this profession which in context of India's emergence as an economic power has all the more role to play."



▲ CA. K. Rahman Khan

The Guest of Honor, **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha CA. K. Rahman Khan**, in his address said: "Before the Constitution of India was born the need for accountancy profession was felt. The contribution of the Institute to the overall development of the country makes me feel proud of my being its Alumni. Our Institute has been a great strategist and innovator and has kept its quality standards very high because of the process of continuous reforms in education and training and thus, bringing in the chartered accountants is a fine element of professional competence." He reiterated the need for transparency especially where the government money was being routed to reach the grass root level. He emphasised on the social responsibility aspect besides the ethical concept.

He further said that the institute must aggressively take up accounting and auditing related issues like *presumptive loss*, and also suggest measures to the government to improve the efficiency of public expenditure. "Now that the CAG has said that calculating presumptive loss and reporting it was very much within its domain (legal), there is need for defining it or having standards around this concept. This is a must to avoid confusion in the society," He added.

"The civil society is losing faith in governmental systems. The chartered accountants are not responsible for this. But accounting and auditing professionals do have a role to play in streamlining the system," he said, adding that there was no dearth of laws in India. He highlighted the fact that the government had not been able to adopt accrual-based accounting although the effort in this direction had started nearly two decades ago.



▲ CA. Rameshwar Thakur

Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, **Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Past President of the ICAI CA. Rameshwar Thakur** remarked: "It is a moment of truth for the profession to be a fundamental edifice to be overall process of national development. The profession has developed itself as an enabling instrumentality for businesses, governments, regulators and the stakeholders." The Governor added that "the accountancy profession in India is one profession which has a potential lead role to play; be it any sector of economy. I have full faith that the members of the profession have the requisite knowledge and

skills to exploit the challenges and convert them into opportunities."

Hailing the accountancy profession and its members, CA. Rameshwar Thakur said: "The profession has developed itself as an enabling instrumentality for helping and understanding the financial affairs of businesses, governments, regulators and the stakeholders. The role that the profession has to play is providing high quality financial information, facilitating market discipline, and fostering confidence in various stakeholders about the financial markets. Quality and integrity of information are the hallmark of the chartered accountant's professional practice and the basis for brand differentiation. This is true of the developing countries, which compete with each other, for mobilisation of financial resources."

He added that "Chartered accountants play an essential role in society, providing reliable and transparent information about public and private bodies. They are the trustees of the society, at large, and have to shoulder onerous responsibility of protecting and preserving the trust. They not only have to be adept at work but also have to adopt with the changing environment."

The Governor said that the move to transit to accrual accounting would certainly invigorate the financial resources of the Government and thus lead to hallmark steps in the process of national governance. "The Institute has a great task on hand to help the Government in this direction."

He advised that if the accounting profession has to serve public interest in a developmental context, it should look much beyond and position itself to play a direct and more pro-active role in formulation of economic policies and guiding implementation thereof. He further added that "as the profession grows, rules and regulations alone would not safeguard the conduct of the members. They are more meant to convey what is permissible and what would be frowned upon. Being a chartered accountant myself and having been in active practice for few decades, I would like to advice every member to uphold the dignity of the profession to conduct them honestly, without fear or favour in carrying out their professional duties."

"The accounting profession has a long and distinguished history of guarding the integrity of financial statements. As a statutory body, the Institute owes a responsibility to evolve accounting and financial framework that facilitates economic growth with certain sense of discipline and stability. I would like to emphasise that our profession owes a moral responsibility to society to sustain the highest degree of professionalism and excellence," he added.



▲ CA. Rameshwar Thakur

The Vote of Thanks was given by **Vice President of the ICAI CA. Jaydeep N. Shah**. He thanked the dignitaries and guests for sharing their words of wisdom and encouragement with the CA fraternity and assured them to proactively take up the issues highlighted by them. The Vice President said: "The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, since its inception in 1949, has been the hallmark of transparency, fair play and efficiency in the field of accounting and auditing. Today the CA profession has attained enviable height as it possesses strong intellectual heritage and a tradition of trust." Vice President also added that "It is the multi-faceted education and training of the ICAI that empowers chartered accountants to confidently face all challenges. The initiatives taken by the Institute have helped the accounting professionals in creating an efficient space where they can deliver and contribute to the growth of our nation. Chartered accountants are truly *partners in nation building*. It shall be our sincere endeavour to contribute towards the growth of Indian economy."

CA. Kamlesh S. Vikamsey, Past President, ICAI later addressed a technical session on "LLP form of CA Practice" which was followed by another session on "Revised Schedule VI" addressed by **CA. Dolphy D'souza**.

New Services for Members and Students Launched

The 63rd Foundation Day of the ICAI saw a range of value added services launched for the benefit of our members, students and other stakeholders. As developing the IT infrastructure is high on the agenda of the Institute for 2011-2012, many of the facilities introduced will surely provide better and round the clock services ranging from 24x7 access to lectures of eminent speakers, online registration, networking and web portals, etc. The following is a brief account of the services introduced:



▲ ICAI Web TV

ICAI Web TV Portal

The ICAI Web TV was made functional by the Chief

Guest, the Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Past President of the ICAI, CA. Rameshwar Thakur. Under this initiative Educative videos are hosted on a the ICAI Web TV which will enable members to stream lectures of eminent speakers and watch them on their desktops, laptops and mobile phones at their convenience. All important live events of ICAI are being beamed live on Web and Mobile platforms using cutting-edge technology. Members across the country can participate in the webinars that will be announced by the Committee for Members in Industry from time to time.



▲ ICAI Connect

ICAI Connect

The ICAI Connect was formally launched by Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Shri D.K. Mittal. ICAI Connect is part of the drive to bring together all the Chartered Accountants who have not opted or renewed their membership of ICAI. ICAI Connect initiative will make the foundation of ICAI even stronger by active participation of our members in Industry and practice. In this dynamic environment, it is important for all Chartered Accountants to remain an active member of the Institute. The aim of ICAI connect is to converse the privilege and other benefits of being a members of the Institute so that Chartered Accountants who are not members of the Institute will get membership of the Institute and will renew their membership timely.

Project Parivartan "O" BETA

The project took a comprehensive 360 degree view of the existing processes and benchmarked them with the global best practices. 'Beta' version of the new ICAI website was released by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Shri R. P. N Singh. The main objective of this Beta release was to share the new perspective on how the Institute perceives to capture thoughts and transform the ICAI Web Portal into a truly members and students friendly.

Online Form for Registration for CPT Course

This facility will enable the students to register

themselves 24*7 to CPT course using the online form. This would also have the facility to pay course fee online using credit/debit cards/net banking of various banks. This will bring the students closer to the doorsteps of the ICAI, and other such forms will also be available online in due course.

Website for Practitioners and CA Firms

Exclusive website for Practitioners and CA Firms www.icaai.org.in was launched by Minister of State, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Shri R. P. N. Singh. The website will enable the practitioners and firms to create their websites and upload the details of their firms as per the norms laid down by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The website provides a platform for the CA firms to upload their firms' details and gives them an opportunity to reach out to the members and CA firms practising worldwide.



ICAI-ROC Software

ICAI-ROC Software

The ICAI-ROC software was launched by Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha CA. K. Rahman Khan. The

software has been uploaded in the website www.icaai.org.in. 'ICAI-ROC' Software on MCA21 Compliance provides the facility to prepare Auto filing of e-Forms, Shares Records/Certificates, Meetings and Minutes, Resolutions/Drafting, Annual Return forms and maintenance of Registers and Reports, etc. The members who are desirous of this software may send their special request on committee's website www.icaai.org.in. The details of use and benefits are given on the website www.icaai.org.in and published elsewhere in the journal.



ICAI-Tax Suite Software

ICAI- Tax Suite

The ICAI- Tax Suite was launched by Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha CA. K. Rahman Khan. ICAI- Tax Suite contains the Income Tax, TDS, Audit Reports, Project Report/CMA, Form Manager, AIR (Annual Information Return), Service Tax and Document Management and will help the Practitioners and CA Firms. 'ICAI-Tax Suite' software has also been uploaded on the website www.icaai.org.in, so that members can download it free of cost. ■

