

## As India Grows, CAs Have to Share a Lot of Responsibilities: Sachin Pilot

Following are excerpts of the speech of Shri Sachin Pilot, Union Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology given as the Chief Guest at the Orientation Programme of newly qualified CAs organised on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2011 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. ICAI President CA. G. Ramaswamy, Vice President CA. Jaydeep N. Shah and Chairman of Committee for Members-in-industry CA. K Raghu were among the large gathering of distinguished guests and newly qualified Chartered Accountants on the occasion.



Shri Sachin Pilot, Union Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology addressing the newly qualified Chartered Accountants at the Orientation Programme held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Others seen on the dais are (L-R) Council Member CA. Pankaj Tyagee, Vice Chairman, Committee for Members in Industry, CA. G. Ramaswamy, President, ICAI, CA. Jaydeep N. Shah, Vice President, ICAI, Council Member CA. K. Raghu, Chairman, Committee for Members in Industry and CA. Rajesh Sharma, Chairman, NIRC of ICAI.

“You have chosen a profession which, by no means, is easily gotten one. This is the profession which speaks of dedication and hard work. But to my mind, once you are a qualified CA, you have to certainly upgrade your skills, learn best practices, attain those standards, not just in India but across the world. So the challenge before you is not to just graduate and get a job today or tomorrow, but the challenge is how do you maintain skill sets, how do you learn those accounting best practices, how can you make a name for yourself, your firm, your family, your State, more importantly for your country.

An individual can become a leader once they are

getting scales and success but the nation becomes a leader when the society is moving together, when there is equitable distribution of opportunities of resources. So, we as a nation of 1.2 billion people have a very large responsibility to move together in tandem.

How do we as Professionals, as Members of Parliament, as political activists, as members of Government, Civil Society ensure that what we have achieved today can also be readily available for those people who don't have the access to resources of money, education or opportunities. That challenge will lie with you as you work as an Accountant. I am here only to convey to you that,

**E**very entity in this country whether it is a company or Government or NGO needs to be audited. Therefore you have a lot of work to do, no matter which field you work in, you will be required to be good accountants to make sure that there is proper book-keeping and we in the Government are fully committed in this regard. I also appreciate the efforts of ICAI. It is not just about coaching and making you take the examinations but they are here to guide you, ”

as India moves forward, a lot of responsibilities lie on your shoulders as well. As the economy grows, as the country grows, the expectations will also grow.

...While you make the best of the opportunities available, as you move along in your professional career, please do a little bit, whatever you can individually to help those who perhaps have not been lucky enough as you and I have been.

These examinations (CA) that we conduct in India, I am told that if you have cleared the examinations, there is no country in the world where you cannot go and become qualified accountants, whether it is US or UK. I think the quality of the teaching, the quality of the students who take these examinations and the whole eco system that we have been able to create in the last five or six decades, I think it is a tremendous symbol of the single minded focus on training young professionals. About 1,72,000 Chartered Accountants being associated with one body, the second largest in the world, is amazing.

The future to India's growth will be from the Information Technology source. In future whatever field of profession one may choose, but IT will remain with you. Therefore, it is important for you to inculcate these skills and make yourself able to demonstrate these skills as we go along. The Electronic Services Delivery Bill, I think, is a very powerful Legislation, which, once put passed by Parliament, will bring a paradigm shift in India. The poor person in India does not have access to a lot of things because he has to go to the collectors, the BDOs, SDMs, MLAs, MPs to get something notified, to get his land records, to get his certification done. If you are able to give all of them, I think in local, regional languages at the click of a button, you can imagine that the amount of transparency it will bring about at the lowest levels.

I know we are battling with the issue of corruption. I do also want to make a point that we will work together to make sure that corruption does not become a bottleneck

for our progress. What bothers the common people in this country is the corruption at the lowest levels. Therefore, accountability and transparency and really digitising a lot of services will hopefully take away a lot of loopholes that exist in PDS systems and in our allocation systems, in subsidies. These are the ways we are trying to make sure that we are helping and contributing to make sure that the services, the goods, the finances, the programmes, the allocations, the budget that we give from the Government are reaching the common man. Every entity in this country whether it is a company or Government or NGO needs to be audited. Therefore you have a lot of work to do, no matter which field you work in, you will be required to be good accountants to make sure that there is proper book-keeping and we in the Government are fully committed in this regard. I also appreciate the efforts of ICAI. It is not just about coaching and making you take the examinations but they are here to guide you, how to get placed, how to get better jobs. This hand-holding, this capacity-building,

I think, is really the very essence of a good partnership, a life-long association that ICAI will have with all of you and that is why it has gone stronger and bigger and better as the years went by.

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I think in success and victory, one has to be more humble than anywhere else. So you approach your job with confidence with humility. If you do the right thing, you know the efforts will be appreciated and in the times that we are going to be working as professionals. I am working as a politician and like you need to get the licence every five years, I have to go back and take my examinations every five years...But as we move along people, I hope to work with you, with the ICAI, with the Council Members and hopefully be able to engage with you in time to come in future with new ideas and I hope that we become a participative society.” ■

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