

## President of India hails ICAI as *Accountancy Profession* hogs limelight at mega International Conference in 'City of Joy'



A mega congregation of the leading lights of accountancy and allied professions was successfully organised under the banner of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in the form of 3-day international conference on 'Accountancy Profession: Emerging Frontiers of Future Growth' from 21<sup>st</sup> November in Science City, Kolkata. Led by Chief Guest Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, more than 2400 professionals were part of this prestigious annual event. West Bengal Governor Shri M. K. Narayanan, Union Minister for Minority Affairs CA. K. Rahman Khan, Member of Parliament CA. Piyush Goyal, West Bengal Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Partha Chatterjee, CAPA President Mr. Keith Wedlock, SAFA President Mr. Abdul Mannan besides the ICAI President and Vice-President CA. Subodh Kumar Agrawal and CA. K. Raghu and other ICAI Council members were also present among a host of dignitaries in the inaugural session. The Board Meeting of Confederation of Asia and Pacific Accountants, 29<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of South Asia Federation of Accountants, and International Networking Summit were also held on the sidelines of this massive event. While an MoU was signed between the ICAI and AASB of Bhutan, a DVD of 61 years of the ICAI journal *The Chartered Accountant* was also released during the event. Led by Chief Guest Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee, all the dignitaries hailed the role being played by the ICAI in 'Nation Building'. Following is the brief report about the event.

## DAY 1 (21st Nov, 2013)

**Inaugural Session**

At the outset **Shri T. Karthikeyan**, Secretary, ICAI formally welcomed all the dignitaries and described the Chief Guest Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee as a statesman and visionary par excellence. ICAI

president-CA. **Subodh K. Agrawal** talked about leaders of India as creators, enablers and preservers of values in the country's governance. He shared his dream of India being a place where the mind is without fear and the head is held high as quoted by the legendary Nobel laureate Rabindranth Tagore. He emphasised the need for professionals to grasp the opportunities and face the challenges of the future.



**Shri Partha Chatterjee**, Minister of Commerce & Industry, WB, thanked ICAI for organising such an enriching event in the 'City of Joy'. Citing statistics from the UN Bureau of Labour, he spoke about the increasing demand for dynamic professionals in the field of

forensic audit and implementation of corporate ethics. He talked about West Bengal government's thrust on industries such as IT & ITES, textiles and infrastructure. He made a special mention of the state's potential for emerging as a leader in the financial services space.

**CA. K. Rahman Khan**, Union Minister of Minority Affairs, spoke on the ICAI's key role in establishing the credibility of financial information. He talked about the need to realign technical and ethical standards to the changing requirements of a new era. He focused on the potential of the Service Infrastructure space where unrestricted movement of human resources could unleash new horizons of growth. "The accounting profession would need to deal with macro issues related to governance in the



changing times and how a stable accounting and regulatory framework could take us to new heights of economic growth. We would need to re-align our strategies for enhancement of the 'collective image' of the profession in the eyes of the vast majority," he said.

**Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee**

recounted his association with ICAI in numerous capacities in the past, including his stint as Finance Minister. Sharing his perception about the economy he said: "In present times, we live in a world which offers a vista of opportunities for those who can handle the accompanying serious challenges." He emphasised on promoting 'inclusive growth' so that the section of society at the bottom of the pyramid is not deprived of the fruits of prosperity that the vast majority enjoy. For ensuring equitable economic growth, he emphasised on participative decision making. He mentioned the metamorphosis in the Indian economy across the past six decades. He cited India's 74% literacy rate, turning into a net exporter of food grains and reduction of poverty through gradual increase in growth rates from 1% in 1950-1980 to 7.9% in the last decade. "The subprime crisis and Eurozone crisis had adversely impacted the global economy including the BRICS nations. The same have reinforced the role of accounting professionals in discharging their responsibility to create public trust," Shri Mukherjee said. He wished that accountants had prevented the financial bubble in the US housing mortgage market by adopting principles of prudent accounting. "Ethical standards would result in fruitful communication to stakeholders. A highly robust framework was required in the



accounting/auditing/financial reporting, PSU accounting and accounting innovation. ICAI has a big role to play in furthering India's economic growth by providing inputs to the government in various fields as well as effective implementation of schemes such as MGREGA. Innovation as well as judicious use of resources would be of paramount importance as India stood at the cusp of change," the President of India said. He spoke of a transformative agenda for new/ revised accounting standards so that Indian accounting remains contemporary in the era of IFRS and IAS.



The session ended with CA. **K. Raghu**, Vice-President, ICAI proposing a vote of thanks.

### Keynote Address: Current Economic Scenario in India and the Agenda for the next Government

Delivering the Keynote Address, Member of Parliament **CA. Piyush Goyal** talked about how Indians have displayed tremendous resilience in the wake of despondence. He foresaw new trends where, for the first time, 70% of the voters in the forthcoming election would have access to electronic content through TV and mobile phone and 165 million of them will have access of the Internet. "The design principles for the new government would be to demonstrate sincerity on the turnaround and focus on outcomes and not just outlay. The need of the hour was to avoid the mistake of judging programs and policies by intent and not outcomes," he said.



The session ended with CA. K. Raghu, Vice-President, ICAI proposing a vote of thanks.



### Special Address: Public Sector Enterprises: Anchoring Economic Growth



In his special address CMD, ONGC **Shri Sudhir Vasudeva** dwelt at length on how the public sector enterprises can effectively play the role of anchor of the economic growth in India and the world.

Central Council member **CA. J. Venkateswarlu** moderated



the session while a vote of

thanks was proposed by **CA. Dhinal Shah**, ICAI Central Council member.



### DAY 2 (22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2013)

### Panel Discussion: Global opportunities for Chartered Accountants



The participants in the discussion included the moderator CA. Subodh Kumar Agrawal, President, ICAI, CA. K. Raghu, Vice President, ICAI, CA. Anuradha Venkatkrishnan, Chairperson, Muscat Chapter of ICAI, CA. Padmanabha Acharya, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Chapter of ICAI, CA. James Mathew, Past Chairman, Dubai Chapter of ICAI and CA. A Nandkumar, Chairman, Dubai Chapter of ICAI. Starting the session, ICAI President **CA. Subodh Kr Agrawal** dwelt upon the gradual emergence of the Indian CAs in the global professional landscape. He mentioned about the campus success of ICAI in the Gulf countries.



**CA. Anuradha Venkatkrishnan**, Chairperson, Muscat Chapter of ICAI spoke about the changing trends of practice and employment in the Gulf. **CA. Padmanabha Acharya**, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Chapter of ICAI, said that in comparison to India where 56% CAs are in practice and the rest in Industry, the picture in UAE is different with 82% members being in Industry and only 18% in practice. He said the job market in the Gulf is growing exponentially with almost 300,000 job requirements at the moment. **CA. A. Nandkumar**, Chairman, Dubai Chapter of ICAI mentioned that the medium of language is Arabic in the Gulf sector which may also be an initial challenge for foreign professionals. A vote of thanks was proposed by CA. K. Raghu, Vice President, ICAI.

**Keynote Address: Raising the Voice of Asia in Global Accounting Profession**



The keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Keith Wedlock, President CAPA and Mr. Sujeewa Mudalige, Dy. President CAPA. **Mr. Keith Wedlock** from New Zealand, who is the immediate Past President of CAPA, highlighted the history and track record of CAPA and discussed in detail the seven major objectives of CAPA to



sustain Professional Accountancy Organisations (PAO). "CAPA is currently having 23 jurisdictions supporting 31 PAOs. CAPA has 4 associates and strong presence in Asia and Pacific region," he said. **Mr. Sujeewa Mudalige** presented an effective analysis of the Asian economy in



reference to the 'ADB Report 2013,' covering growth, employment and income analysis. He also cited the IMF Report and provided vital statistics to determine the economic and financial landscape of the Asian countries, pointing out to opportunity sectors for CAs. The session was moderated by ICAI President CA. Subodh Kumar Agrawal while ICAI Vice President CA. K. Raghu proposed a vote of thanks.

**Special Address**



In this session, Shri R. K. Dubey, CMD, Canara Bank spoke on 'Banking Sector-Navigating through Maze; Roadmap for Growth' while Shri Koushik Chatterjee, Group CFO, Tata Steel spoke



on 'Mergers, Collaborations and Financial innovations in a Global economy'. **Shri R. K. Dubey** spoke at length about the rising challenges for the banking sector where the second generation of reforms had shifted the focus from 'crisis management' to 'consensus'. He highlighted how the performance of banks had improved on the CRAR front (Capital to Risk Weighted Assets), productivity as well as performance w.r.t. employee efficiency. ICAI Central Council member **CA. Shyamlal Agarwal** proposed a vote of thanks.



**Mergers, Collaborations and Financial innovations in a Global economy**

The main speaker **Shri Koushik Chatterjee**, Group CFO, Tata Steel focused on the fact that a 'young world' was grappling with the aftermath of the

Lehmann collapse and rearing to reap demographic dividends post the revival of economic growth. He compared the reliance on financial markets on easy liquidity to a patient surviving on a ventilator. Therefore, the prospects of tapering of Quantitative Easing (QE) were sending shockwaves across the world, he said, adding “M&As as well as JVs were means to execute larger corporate strategies and implementation (of) an action plan based on its assessment of the growth potential of the particular industry.” He stressed the need for ‘Scenario Planning’ for multiple eventualities.

### Emerging Paradigm in context of Education, Technical Standards and Company Law

In this session the speakers included past presidents of the ICAI CA. Ved Jain and CA. Amarjit Chopra. CA. Ved Jain spoke about the need to realign our education system to the dynamically changing requirements. He emphasised



the need to emerge as a professional who could take a holistic view of the world and act in the best interest of stakeholders. CA. Amarjit Chopra, Past President spoke of the compelling need to migrate to a system of asking case studies in our examinations as compared to the practice of simply putting direct questions. “This would enable students to develop insights into application of provisions across multiple subjects into a single corporate case.” There was a need for convergence and not just adoption of international standards after taking due cognisance of local ground level realities. He also spoke about various

accountancy profession related aspects of the new Companies Act. The session was moderated by CA. Pankaj Jain while CA. Prafulla Chajjed proposed a vote of thanks.



### Session – II: Beyond Accountancy – Management & Leadership

In this session CA. P. K. Choudhary, Chairman, ICRA spoke on ‘Business Model Innovations for



Competitive Advantage’ while Shri Harish Bijoor, CEO, Harish Bijoor Consults Inc. dwelt on ‘Brand Building—the new Survival Mantra’. CA. P. K. Choudhary discussed the realms of value drivers, innovation in business models,

supply chain management, key resource planning and change management. He focused on continuous effort for quality and dexterity in professional services. Shri Harish Bijoor explained the concepts of ‘brand’ with focus on internal and external branding for CAs. Mr Bijoor stressed the 90:10 principle for CAs so far as branding is concerned. He addressed issues such as growth, visibility of the profession and the fact that brand is a ‘thought’.



The Session was moderated by Central Council Member CA. Shivaji B. Zaware while Central Council member CA. Babu Abraham proposed a vote of thanks.



### Special address: Happiness Index – Measurement for True Growth of Nation



This special address was delivered by Shri Dasho Ugen Chewang, Chair AASB of Bhutan. Shri Dasho Ugen Chewang introduced the new concept – ‘Happiness Index’ and explained how Gross National Happiness (GNH) is more vital and relevant than Gross National Product (GNP). The GNH term has been coined by His Majesty the



4<sup>th</sup> king of the Royal Government of Bhutan. He explained and analysed the 4 Pillars, 9 domains, 33 indices and 124 variables which ultimately go to compute GNH. CA. Subodh Kumar Agrawal, President, ICAI moderated the session while a vote of thanks was proposed by **CA. G. Sekar**, Central Council member, ICAI.

This was followed by the signing of an MoU between ICAI and AASB of Bhutan.

### Keynote Address: Banking Sector - Navigating through Maze; Roadmap for Growth



The address was given by **Shri D. Sarkar**, CMD, Union Bank of India, who dwelt at length on emerging economic issues centring around growth, bank rates, GDP increment, global developments and dynamic impact on India. He also presented a snapshot of the NPA situation. He also commented on



emerging issues like Basel III compliance and spoke on the banking approach in these turbulent times. The session was moderated by **CA. Naveen ND Gupta**, Central Council member, ICAI. A vote of thanks was proposed by CA. G. Sekar, Council Member, ICAI.

### Panel Discussion: Competency Mapping for the Capacity Development of Profession – Country Perspective

The participants in the discussion included the moderator CA. K. Raghu, Vice President ICAI, Shri

Dilip Chenoy, CEO, National Skills Development Corporation, Mr. Andrew Stringer, Director-Asia, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, CA Jamil Khatri, and Mr. Abdul Mannan, President SAFA. **CA. K. Raghu** set the tone for the discussion, emphasising the need for acquiring new-age skill-sets, especially in ERP, soft skills and global business models. **Shri Dilip Chenoy** spoke on how to



increase employability and discussed about 'International Qualifications framework' and the need to modify, review and come out with new qualifications and certification matrix. **Mr. Andrew Stringer** discussed the emergence of International Accounting Education Standards Board under the auspices of IFAC. He illustrated the new era of competence standards and development

of capability maturity models for PAOs by CAPA. **CA. Jamil Khatri** spoke on capacity building from individual practitioner level and also at CA Firm/unit level. He shared his global experience on 'Integrated Reporting' platforms and the implications for Indian CAs. **Mr. Abdul Mannan** stressed the need for professional capacity building and highlighted the many related initiatives of SAFA. A vote of thanks was proposed by CA. Mukesh Singh Khushwah, Central Council member, ICAI.

In the evening a gala cultural extravaganza unfolded at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata with an impressive performance by celebrated singer Sunidhi Chouhan and troupe.

### DAY- 3 (23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2013)

#### Special Address: Sustainability and Value Creation: Emerging Paradigm

The special address was delivered by **Shri Suresh Senapaty**, Executive Director,



Wipro Technologies. Shri Suresh Senapati dwelt upon the trends that influenced development of ethical products such as environment, petrodollars, global warming, etc. “The changing investment behaviour was driven by the quantum of long-term funds (\$32 trillion of pension funds and \$24 trillion of insurance funds) surpassing the \$24 trillion of short-term funds,” he said. He also discussed the current era’s transition from one bottom-line to triple bottom line (Environmental, Social and Governance) reporting by corporate houses. Concluding, he said that financials, governance and stability are important



Member CA. C. S. Nanda while Central Council member CA. Sumantra Guha proposed a vote of thanks.

contributors to value creation and Chartered Accountants have a key role to play in this domain. The session was moderated by Central Council



### Special Address: Companies Act 2013: Implications on Profession and Professionals



The main speaker in this special address session was CA. P. R. Ramesh, who highlighted the adverse implications for CAs in the new legislation. However, he expressed hope with the anecdote that in every adversity, there is an opportunity. “The Act, spread across 470 sections, had set the ball rolling for a transition



from government regulation to self regulation,” he said, adding that India ranked 184/185 globally when it came to enforcing contracts. He discussed the impact of the formation of NFRA as well as SFIO saying that once the principle of oversight was established, it would have far reaching repercussions on all entities. Central Council member CA. Nilesh Vikamsey moderated the session.

### Session –III: Information Technology –



#### Rewriting the Rules of Business

In this session CA. Ravi Pandit, Chairman, KPIT Cummins spoke on ‘Cloud Computing: Win – Win Proposition for Corporate,’ Shri Aditya Tulsian, Strategy and Corporate Development Leader India, Intuit spoke on ‘Cloud Computing: Win–



Win Proposition for Chartered Accountants,’ while CA. Chetan Dalal discussed ‘Corporate Defense Management – Role of Forensic Auditing’. CA. Ravi Pandit brought in the analogy of the journey of electricity towards a utility service to showcase the potential of cloud computing. There were potential savings from consolidation in a situation where 30-40% of server space and 20% of network bandwidth was unused, he said. Cloud Computing could facilitate an entity transition from capacity to capability, capex to opex and technology to value, he added. Shri Aditya Tulsian spoke about trends such as participant driven usage in a world without borders, content created by users (such as LinkedIn), mobile usage





influencing behaviour and humanising the data. **CA. Chetan Dalal**, FCA cited real-life illustrations to demonstrate how an observant mind could unearth fraudulent transactions. The session was moderated by ICAI Vice President CA. K.

Raghu.

### Special Address: Economic Resurgence of West Bengal



Hon'ble Finance and Excise Minister of West Bengal **Dr. Amit Mitra** was the main speaker of the session. Dr. Amit Mitra, Hon'ble Finance and Excise Minister, spoke about West Bengal's heritage of being home to all the four Nobel laureates from India. He highlighted the trends where Bengal's GDP grew at 7% last year as compared to the national average of 4.99% and Bengal's per capita GDP grew at 6.65% last year as compared to the national average of 2.97%. "Proactive measures by the new government had led to robust tax revenues for the state (projections of ₹40,000 crore in the year 2013-14 as compared to ₹21,000 crore in 2010-11). The IIP numbers for WB in the current year were significantly better than the national average." The session was

moderated by ICAI President CA. Subodh Kumar Agrawal while **CA. Abhijit Bandhyopadhyay** proposed a vote of thanks.



### Session-IV: Expanding Trade through Innovation and Digital Economy



The speakers of this session were CS S. N.



**Ananthasubramanian**, President, Institute of Company Secretaries of India and **CMA Suresh Chandra Mohanty**, President, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India. **CS S. N. Ananthasubramanian** started his presentation

with the quote of Albert Einstein "Imagination is more important than knowledge." He said that technology has taken us towards a borderless world, free education where everything is available at a click, and business trade has been redefined. He said e-commerce is the next big opportunity and Indian professionals have to take up this challenge. He added that technology is great leveller and stabiliser in many terms. **CMA Suresh Chandra Mohanty** said that in the market driven open economy in which we live in, thrust should be on research and innovation in technology. He urged the members to be drivers of change. The session was moderated by ICAI President CA Subodh Kumar Agrawal.

**Session V: Global Competitiveness: Evolving Dimensions of Trade**



In this session, the speakers were CA. TPOstwal and Shri Sunil Kanoria, Joint MD SREI Finance who spoke on ‘International Taxation – Implications for the Industry in the Borderless Economy’ and ‘Public Private Partnership–New Paradigm for Development’ respectively. CA. T. P. Ostwal briefly discussed the traditional concept of Permanent Establishment (PE), concept of e-commerce,



online technology models, various issues related to PE in digital economy and concluded with discussing transfer pricing Issues in e-commerce. He also explained the various initiatives of the OECD towards taxation of e-commerce. **Shri Sunil Kanoria**, who is also nominated member on ICAI Council, said Public Private Partnership (PPP) is the best practice across the globe. Explaining some issues arising out of Companies Act 2013 he said forced



governance will not work and it has to come from inside. The session was moderated by **CA. M. Devaraja Reddy**, Central Council member of the ICAI while a vote of thanks was given by **CA. Anirban Datta**, Treasurer, EIRC of ICAI.



ICAI NEWS

**Announcement: Non-applicability of Companies Act**

**Sub: Non-applicability of Companies Act, 2013 for May 2014, Examinations**

The Companies Act, 2013 notified in the Official Gazette on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 (with partial enforcement of only 98 sections of the Companies Act, 2013 from 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2013) shall not be applicable for May 2014 examinations both at the Intermediate (IPC) and Final levels.

The examinations will be based only on the existing syllabus.

Members are requested to bring this to the kind notice of the students who are undergoing practical training under them.

**Chairman, Board of Studies**

### Panel Discussion: Developing Nation through Wealth Creation



The participants in the discussion were CA. S.P. Tulsian and CEO, Value Research Shri Dhirendra Kumar. **CA. S. P. Tulsian** said that one has to be a prudent investor. He said manufacturing, services and agriculture are the three very important sectors of the economy but over a period of time contribution of manufacturing is coming down.

He said wealth creation is happening but not for all the sections of society. **Shri Dhirendra Kumar** explained as to how to make money through mutual funds investing with less risk. He said Indians are great savers but horrible investors. Informing the importance of portfolio churning, he said we are all behaviourally configured to avoid losses and this habit of taking very less risk should be changed. Central Council Member **CA. C.S. Nanda** moderated the discussion.

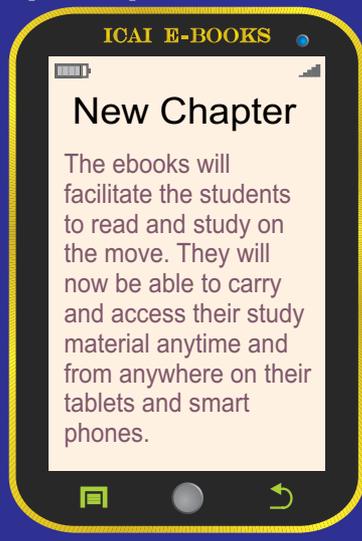
In his concluding remarks to the conference **CA.**



**Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal**, Chairman, Eastern India Regional Council of the ICAI, thanked all the participants, foreign delegates, and speakers for making the conference a grand success. ■

## ICAI NEWS

### e-books for Intermediate (IPC) Course



ICAI believes in harnessing technology for the benefit of members and students. In view of increased use of tablets and smart phones that facilitate easy reading, the ICAI has come out with study materials in form of e-books. Now students will be able to conveniently read and learn on the move. Presently, the study material of Intermediate (IPC) Course are being converted. The e-books for other levels will be taken up subsequently in a phased manner.

The e-books have been created in epub format. The format is compatible with multiple devices. Readers can optimize text according to settings of a particular display device.

Steps for users to read ICAI's ebooks on Android devices.

1. Users need to download an e-book reader app from google play. Many reader apps are available as freeware.
2. Add a new catalog naming it as ICAI with the URL - <http://www.icai.org/ebooks/>
3. Open the catalog ICAI to download and read books. Users will have convenient features such as resizing text, search, bookmark, highlight, etc.

The e-books can also be read on other platforms. In case of any difficulty or have any suggestions, please send an email at [bosnoida@icai.in](mailto:bosnoida@icai.in) with a copy to Shri Shaleen Suneja, Deputy Director at [ssuneja@icai.in](mailto:ssuneja@icai.in).

**Chairman, Board of Studies**