



*It is undeniable that women empowerment in the corporate world has a crucial direct impact on the economic growth and simultaneous national development. In India, where Women representation in the corporate scenario stands at 30.55%, the reservoir of women leadership is certainly untapped. But, with many organisations leading the change, India's corporate world is getting inclusive of women holding significant positions in top-notch organisations. Indian woman accountants are no exception to this growing phenomenon and a good number of them have gone up the ladder to take leadership positions in Indian business world. Today, we can boast of women comprising more than 25% of ICAI's total membership. In this special feature, we bring you the views of some of such prominent women CAs, as shared with The Chartered Accountant journal. Read on...*

**CA. Deena Mehta, First Woman President of BSE**

## **‘Rigour that Goes Into Being a CA is a Lesson in the Management of Life Itself’**



“Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) and its members have played a stellar role in promotion of organised accounting in India. Moving from the handwritten red books to structured and standard reporting standards

have helped all the stakeholders understand the business transactions and health of companies. Having over a dozen CAs in our family, I truly believe that the conservatism and business sense is unparalleled among any other finance or banking professions. The rigour that goes into being a CA is a lesson in the management of

# Vision Women CAs

life itself. I have personally benefited a lot in every aspect of life as well as dealing number of companies and Institutions that I have

associated myself with.

I wish the Institute all the best on the Foundation Day”.

*The author is presently Group Managing Director, Asit C. Mehta Group of Companies. Comments can be sent to [vasudha.kamat@acm.co.in](mailto:vasudha.kamat@acm.co.in)*

## CA. Bhavna Doshi, former ICAI Council Member

### ‘ICAI Plays Vital Role in Facilitating Nation Building and Opportunities for Women’



“Significant influencer of capital allocation in today’s globalised economy where capital moves freely across boundaries, is the availability of highly skilled, ethically driven and digitally competent professionals supported by robust Institution having wherewithal to develop and implement quality financial accounting, auditing and ethical standards.

For India, this is facilitated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and its members who have been playing a pivotal role in enhancing confidence of investors. Heightened capital allocation is not only providing stimulus to our economy, but is also accelerating the process of addressing challenges of inequality, an area of concern for almost all economies of the world, including that of gender gap.

The profession of chartered accountancy provides comprehensive opportunities to women to showcase their capabilities and I am an example who, after qualifying with second rank at both intermediate and final examinations, in the very early days when not many women were in the profession, could occupy senior positions in professional firms and also serve the Regional and Central Council of the Institute as elected member, chair the most prestigious Accounting Standards Board and represent ICAI at Compliance Advisory Panel of International Federation of Accountants, a Panel which had one representative each from a continent. Today, number of women in the profession has grown significantly and they are making a difference, be it in professional practise or in industry or in social sectors. An accomplishment of pride for ICAI, its members and the nation, as we stand tall in the global arena!”

*The author is on Board of several companies. Comments can be sent to [bhavna.doshi@gmail.com](mailto:bhavna.doshi@gmail.com) or [eboard@icai.in](mailto:eboard@icai.in)*

## CA. Vibha Padalkar, MD & CFO HDFC Life

### ‘Insurance Industry Needs Expertise of CA Professionals’



“Insurance is one of the fastest growing sectors in the country and has tremendous scope for growth given the massive extent of under-insurance. However, this is a complex business and requires a good pool of talent to run it

successfully.

CA professionals, by virtue of the rigour and depth of their curriculum, as well as their mentored internships, gain a strong combination of technical competence, analytical skills and veracity, which are rarely found elsewhere. They are thus favourably placed to

analyse and interpret the many-faced problems of this industry, and deliver relevant solutions without getting intimidated by the quantum and complexity of data and regulations.

In my time spent in the industry, I have seen CA professionals doing very well across a number of companies in 'non-traditional' profiles like Strategy, Business planning, Investor relations, Actuarial, Products, Claims and Underwriting.

There is thus, both a need for good CA professionals in this industry, as well as a clear precedence of them having contributed well in different kinds of roles. The Institute can further the achievements of the CA community in this industry by supporting budding CA professionals with soft skill development, and by developing a strong alumni network that can create greater awareness and encourage CA professionals towards opportunities beyond the typical."

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**CA. R. M. Vishakha, MD & CEO, IndiaFirst Life Insurance**

## 'A Chartered Accountant with Good Communication Skills is Unbeatable.'



"I am a chartered accountant" is a statement I make with pride even 32 years after becoming one. That is the power of this qualification!

The journey had an eventful start with many companies refusing to offer me an articleship because of a bias, that being a woman, I would marry and leave midway, wasting a seat! But when I got the opportunity, I did my CA firm proud by becoming it first woman articles clerk and clearing the CA within three years.

Today there is a lot of unfair comparison made between CAs and MBAs. I firmly believe a Chartered Accountant with good communication skills is unbeatable. It is sad to see CAs opting for MBA to become more

employable. We need to work towards CAs their well-deserved stature, given the intensity of the CA programme and curriculum.

My core training as CA enabled my 360° view of business, even during the early stages of my career. As a salesperson, I never put to my senior management the option of "topline or bottom line". It was very obvious to me that it has to be a "profitable topline growth". The practical, hands-on learning as an articled clerk provided the on-the-job exposure and the experiential learning that management institutes adopt as "apprenticeships".

To conclude, I am a proud member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, a body that continues to be the bedrock of the Indian economy!"

Comments can be sent to [eboard@icai.in](mailto:eboard@icai.in)

