

What the Legends Said

From the Annals of History of Indian Accountancy Profession



CA. Ashok Kumar Chandak

ICAI President 2002-03 (53rd Annual Function of ICAI, 4th February 2003)

“Within the country, the perceived possibility of corporate failures, in the context of US experience, made the government, regulators and

the profession to revisit the entire gamut of corporate governance mechanism and company auditor relationship. The Government of India, possibly, without wishing to take a chance, desired to have a fresh look at the mechanism of accounting, auditing and financial reporting, and more importantly, for renewing the commitment to ethical values, for which the corporate sector and the profession of accountancy in India has always stood for..”

“The profession of chartered accountants has to interact, during the year, with two High Powered Committees — one constituted by the Parliament, viz., The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and Matters relating thereto, and the other, viz., Naresh Chandra Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance. . . . I would only like to highlight the position taken by the Institute, which is based on the following central theme:

- The profession in India has committed itself to playing its part in the drive for convergence of accounting, auditing and ethical standards with international best practice and improving corporate governance in businesses.
- Although corporate failures especially the successive ones in any part of the world represent the cause for concern, however, it would not be fair to assume that the situation in India is similar.
- Isolated cases cannot constitute the basis for the condemnation of the profession in general.
- Whenever there is a corporate failure, the first reaction of the *intelligentsia* is to over-regulate. This, according to us, was an error, which should be avoided.
- The purpose of any regulation should be to strengthen the “weak”; rather than “weaken the strong”.
- Nothing should be done at this stage to weaken the very foundations on which the Institute rests, since those foundations are firm and stable.
- The Institute has a proven record of service and achievement. Its progress is due to autonomous authority and its accent on self-regulation. The progress has been motivated by the desire to improve performance and provide better service to the community in the matter of security and comfort with reference to the financial statements, which are attested by members of the Institute.”

“The need of the hour, therefore, is to further support the Institute in fulfilling the purpose for which it has been established by the Parliament.”



CA. Sunil Goyal

ICAI President 2004-05 (55th Annual Function of ICAI, 4th February 2005)

“Recognising the paramount responsibility of the Institute to meet the ever increasing expectations of the society in the sphere of financial

reporting, the Institute continued to pay focused attention on the same. The continued endeavour of the Institute in this direction made it possible to achieve newer heights of excellence in the area of financial reporting. . . . Falling in line with the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, the Institute continued to play an active role in promoting sound financial reporting practices in the country.”

“As far as the profession of accountancy is concerned, the society in any economy expects the profession to be not merely the conscious keeper of business world, but also a direct contributory to the welfare of the society in general, and commerce and industry in particular.”

“Towards this end, there has been wide-scale restructuring of business and a better appreciation and understanding of the benefits of capacity building measures. The capacity building measures, by its very nature and implication, involve the process of removal of all roadblocks, and paving ways for providing a level playing field.”

“Internationally, the Institute has held the image of a body ever striving for the promotion of professional virtues, incrementing the opportunities for the membership at large, raising the concerns of the constituents of the profession particularly the small and medium level practitioners at appropriate forums and finding rational solutions thereto. The Institute has pursued with the accounting bodies on foreign soils to open gateways for the members by recognising the Indian CA qualification and in the process has achieved partial exemptions in certain countries like the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. What the Institute has been craving for is mutual recognition *per se* and the Union Government has been requested to address the artificial barriers in this regard.”

“India’s partaking the concerns of the small and medium practitioners, which constitute the strength of the profession, has made it find representations in international forums like International Federation of Accountants, Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants, South Asian Federation of Accountants wherein the Institute’s nominees hold Board-level positions and taking forward the mandate of the Indian profession by espousing the Indian concerns at these fora.”